THIS MONTH: 358 Product Support Bulletin Boards May 1993

Guide to Online Information Services and Electronic Bulletin Boards

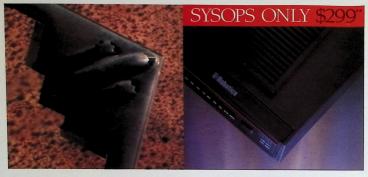
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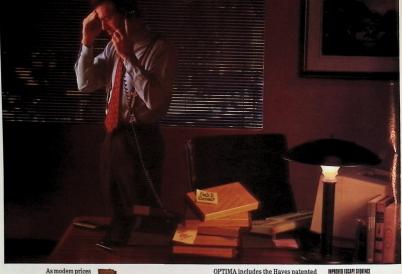
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# "I've Had It.

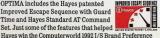
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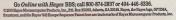
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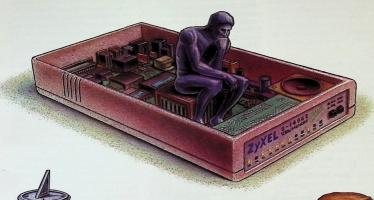
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### **EDITOR'S NOTES**

I had to notice this month, that our little magazine seems to have a lot of writers all of a sudden. This is a bit like watching a gang of young adolescent males circle your 18 year old daughter. I don't suppose you would want her rejected by her before the point of heartbreak, on the other hand, there is a desire to turn the garden hose on them at the same time.

I started Boardwatch over six years ago and the only help I can recall was a tremendous number of concerned people offering the very friendly advice that I shouldn't do it that way, shouldn't do it on that subject, or shouldn't do it at all. The BBS community in those days was viewed very much as you would a group of people who got together every Tuesday night to exchange toothbrushes. "They do what? "To whom? With their computers? Why would they want to do that?" So it's a little difficult at this point to "let go" and allow others to fondle my baby in this intimate a fashion.

But things change. As it turns out, the online community will most likely be the hottest development area in PCland. with most other PC applications beginning to look like office equipment, and the White House itself singing the praises of a national data highway, the BBS fringe is about to become the national obsession. The real progress in computers over the next five years will come in operating systems, internetworking, and BBS technology. We're kind of set on making a passing stab at covering the interesting developments in the latter two subjects.

And to face the world as it really is, one guy cart' know all that is happening online. Actually, one guy never could, but with a bit of paste, scotch tape, and a lot of dialing, he could present the illusion of authoritative coverage. No longer. Development of tools, networks, and simply the number of pools of intense activity online have grown to the point where iff I hadn't done so before, I have now attained a satisfactory level of incompetence. I am panicked by all the

things going on that I should have had covered in the last issue, still don't fully understand, and don't have time or room enough for next month anyway.

We're now printing nearly 60,000 Boardwatch's per month. And even forsaking the optimistic "pass-on" figures most magazines talk about with regards to circulation, we've got to be hitting 150,000 sets of hands with each issue. The textis distributed to over 200 bulletin boards now that license it for online display, and we don't have a clue as to how many are actually reading it



there. Probably somewhere between 200 and 200,000.

So we've been opening up the doors a bit to contributions by other writers. Some early experiments were painful, in that I've been just terribly persnickety about what goes into Boardwatch. But an objective view would indicate it has been worthwhile. So with this issue, we expand it a bit. And despite the inflated value I place on my own text. I have to admit that some of these guys do good stuff. Bill Gram-Reefer has been doing an excellent job on covering the Mac stuff for our Macintosh readers, and Lance Rose has developed quite a following actually with his Legally Online columns. Bill even sounds a bit like Boardwatch, and Lance of course, sounds like a lawyer - but he understands the legal complexities of some of these developments and it is important that our readers do as well.

In this issue, we include contributions from Thom Foulks on Fax/OCR, Alan Bryanton ANSI music, and Jim Thompson makes an extremely credible stab at covering the emerging world of digital imaging from the front end of how major news organizations get the images into digital format in the first place. And reading through it, it's my estimation that these article submissions are good stuff.

I'm hardly out of the picture, and any not otherwise attributed articles are generally mine, But broadly, our growth reflects the growth of our subject. As we move through the next phase of growth for Boardwatch Magazine, we plan on expanding from the current 96 pages to about 140 by the end of the year (and probably topping out there. I seem to have trouble finding time to read these 400 page magazines). And as the online world grows and becomes more varied, and as Boardwatch grows to try to cover it, it is perhaps appropriate to include more voices, and more different points of view, in our editorial matter. And so we will. In any event, I'll be there with the garden hose just in case.

Jack Rickard Editor Rotundus

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Address corresspondence to Letters to the Editor, Boardwatch Magazine 5970 South Vivian Street, Littleton, CO 80127 or by e-mail to letters@boardwatch .com

Dear Jack:

Due to the encouragement from you and fellow BBS folks at the first ONE BBSCON, Randy Suess, co-inventor of CBBS/Chicago, the worlds first BBS, and I got the temporarily-down CBBS/

Chicago back on line. It was down from about 06/07/92 to 09/12/92. We had gotten careless on backups, and Randy Seuss physically opened the stuck hard disk, and manually spun it while applying power - it WORKED, and he was able to back up! Randy recently put a counte old Bernoulli hoves on CBBS so I can (remotely - it is at Randy's house -"in Chicago" rather than in the 'burbs) back it up periodically.

Thanks for a great magazine and a great convention, and the nice award last year! Keep up the good work.

Ward Christensen Dolton, IL. ward@chinet.chi.il.us (chinet is Randy's unix system) CIS: 76703.302 BIX: warde AOL: WardXmodem

### Ward.

It is remarkable to me personally that CBBS / Chicago, the first BBS in operation, still operates. It is an online monument both to how much things change, and how much they stay the same. If we had any small role in inspiring its resuscitation. I'm most pleased. And poignantly, from the first BBS to the last, we once again find that backups still cause bonus points to be awarded.

For our new readers, Ward Christensen wrote the very first BBS software package, as well as the XMODEM file transfer protocol that in many ways got us started in transmitting files conveniently CBBS / Chicago is backup and running at (312)545-8086. And Mr. Christensen will be hosting a special session at the Online Networking Exposition and BBS Convention (ONE BBSCON) scheduled for August 25-29, 1993 at the Broadmoor Hotel in Colorado Springs.

Jack Rickard

### Hi, Jack!

I finally got your magazine, after seeing it once in its electronic format in a BBS ... I want to congratulate you for it. it's ALL a sysop or a BBS-enthusiast needs. I want to know how much would

it cost to subscribe to it, as I live in Mexico, both in the electronic and the "nhysical" formats.

I also wanted to comment some things about it: I see you cover a lot of BBS software, like WildCat, Omega, SuperBBS, Galacticomm and the sort. But, at least here in Mexico and in some places in the states where I've called to there are lots of other BBSes, based on WWIV or VBBS. Here in Mexico, we have 11 BBSes (REALLY a few for a 20million people city), which are: One in Amiga, free, I don't know with which software: one in Atari ST, running FoReM, also free: one in PC running TBBS, multiline, and charging US\$20 a month, one on PC running SuperBBS, free; one on PC, free running WWIV and three running VBBS, also free, You see. it may seem somewhat strange for a lots-of-BBSes-community like the USA. but it's enough for the few people who use their modems.

What I wanted to know, being VBBS the fastest-growing BBS software and net in the US, why doesn't it have more coverage? It's a VERY good program, VERY easy and friendly for a Sysop. and also for the user, very powerful... I mean, it's a very good BBS, which is not used as much as I think it should...

OK, then, thanks a lot for your reply!

Gunnar Wolf gwolf@spin.com

#### Gunnar:

We try, but there is a lot going on in BBSland. But I agree, the WWIV ommission has to be dealt with soon. We had contacted Michael Bell a year or so ago trying to get an address for a list of BBS software vendors we occasionally publish. The response was rather disinterested and we assumed the software was nearly abandoned. I was stunned to learn there are now over 4000 bulletin boards in WWIVnet. We'll try to schedule it for a look soonest.

We've recently revised our subscription prices for Canada and Mexico to the usual \$36 for the printed magazine. It still costs us a little more to mail to those areas, but not as much as it had and we've had very enthusiastic readership particularly Canada.

Jack Rickard

### Greetings!

Just read your "Editor's Notes" in the Feb'93 issue of Boardwatch

The closing paragraph "What happens when mass media changes [etc]" strikes very close to home.

In my current position, employed by/ consulting for an adult education program in Detroit to establish an Electronic Communication system for the students/public at large. I was \*shocked and dismayed\* to hear the director open a dedication ceremony with words to the effect:

"The control of information is power"

Somehow, I thought such thinking was put in its place some 50 yrs ago. We, as carriers of information, must remain ever vigilant to avoid and actively prevent meddling with the thoughts of others. True, there are commercial broadcasts and media wherein the message has to be the "company line", but any interference with an interpersonal communication, insofar as "controlling information", must be rejected hands down!

Just a thought on St. Patties day ... over morning bitters, Green Eggs and Spam while testing a newly connected InterNet Email link.

Gary Groeller gary.groeller@hal9k.ann-arbor.mi.us

### Gary:

Well I agree with both of you. The control of information is certainly power. And who has that power, and how it is used, is one of the primary questions the online community faces.

This is complicated by the fact that some content control is almost required - at some point in the process. Clear and usable channels are impossible in a truly "free speech" forum. At the same time, the responsibility for clear and usable channels should be moved to the farthest possible point down the food chain ideally those individuals communicating, but more practically, at the level of individual forum moderators. Governments and those operating large networks are virtually disqualified as controlling agents, and should not under any conditions be allowed content review of any sort. Yes, this includes Prodigy. They should not be allowed, as an organizational entity, content control of their own forums.

Jack Rickard

Jack.

Thanks for the sample copy of your Magazine. I've read everything and found it highly informative.

It was noteworthy that you provided the CompuServe e-mail address for the White House, and then two days later there's a wire service story about it in the local paper. BUT, the E-mail address was NOT given.

Hmmm....Maybe Rush Limbaugh was right, symbolism over substance. They've taken on an E-mail account, but won't let out the address? Too late, the good folks at BOARDWATCH have letthe catout of the bag. Let the EMAIL flow.

Donald McLaughlin ahn@mentor.cc.purdue.edu

Donald:

It will be very interesting indeed to see how large governmental entities deal with the fire hose of e-mail they face with each published e-mail address. It couldn't happen to a nicer, or more deserving bunch of guys (|guyettes).

Jack Richard

Jack.

Just received my April issue of

Boardwatch, and something in your reply to Brad Clements' letter caught my eye ... I quote:

"File transfers can theoretically be handled quite well over telnet using Chuck Foresberg's ZMODEM protocol ... I'll admit I don't quite understand why there are problems with this."

I think I may be able to help shed some light on this. I have established a test link with our Internet service provider whereby callers with Internet access can telnet into our system, sort of ... the caller actually telnets to our service provider, which then dials out to us and makes the connection. It's not available for public use vet, and won't be until I can arrange a dedicated connection to our service provider (the dialout system isn't really optimal, and is also not without its costs since we have to reimburse our service provider for the telco message units). All in all, though, it doesn't work halfbad ... except that so far no one has been able to get ZMODEM to work, at least not at high speed (14.4K), "Interactive" protocols like XModem and YModem seem to work OK, though the throughput is rather anemic, on the order of 400-500 characters per second at 14.4Kbps.

In all likelihood the problem is probably packet assembly delays. TCP/IP tends to wait a while (on the order of a tenth of a second) before sending out a packet with only 1 character in it, or it may send out a packet after a few characters are ready ... this appears to introduce unacceptable delays that mess up flow control and also prevents the sender from getting timely notice of errors and retransmission requests. Interactive protocols like XMODEM don't have this problem since flow control and error notification work by the definition of the protocol; a packet gets sent, and another doesn't get sent until the first one is acked. This also accounts for the XMODEM/YMODEM sluggishness; the delay would be all spent in the ACK cycle between the packets while TCP/ IP decides to go ahead and send the packet with the single ACK character in it.

A good part of the problem is that our service provider has only a 56K link to NEARnet; if they had a T1 line (which they may before too much longer) the problem would be less and might even go away altogether, at least while dealing with pathways that run at least at T1 speeds all the way.

Don't really know if the above is entirely accurate in all respects, but I think it's pretty close.

Eric Poole
The New England Technology Information Service

epoole@leotech.mv.com

77 .

ZMODEM was designed specifically for packet networks. We've had poor luck with XMODEM [YMODEM as well and only Kermit seems to work reliably, if very poorly, over telnet links.

What makes ZMODEM interesting is that it WAS designed specifically for packet links. More interesting, telnets to sites using MMB Development's TEAMate BBS software result in flawless ZMODEM transfers. Still looking for the answer on this one I'm afraid.

Jack Rickard

Jack.

First, The April issue of Boardwatch is exceptional, can it get much better? Consider this message a FYI for you or anyone who is suitably interested in learning about sound and the PC, to be specific. On America Online, there is a message thread titled 'Sound Board Advice' in the 'Music and Sound Hardware' forum under 'Computing & Software', which was created by Rich Heimlich, the author of 'Sound Blaster - The Official Handbook', Before Rich, most of the controversy occurred in the Advanced Gravis Ultrasound thread, which seems to have attracted the lion's share of devotees (mostly Soundblaster critics). Since Rich started posting in 'Sound Board Advice', there has been a wild donnybrook being waged with more information and knowledge on sound technology that a single human can stand. Yet, I am totally addicted, and my AOL bill has exceeded my monthly

heating bill. Unfortunately, AOL does not provide the feature, like CompuServe, to download a forum for off-line perusal. So, Steve Case, president of AOL, must be profiting from all the passion and fury dispensed by online voyeurs. Guilty!

Thanks, Alex Safer (aka FIBER) FIBER@AOL.COM

Alex:

Sound? We haven't gotten up to speed on digital images yet and already sound is coming up.

A small, but notable correction. CompuServe didn't PROVIDE a way to download forums for offline perusal. Some USERS developed software a number of years ago to do so. If you are waiting for AOL to do so, while it would be laudable and probably a good long term business decision to do so, it is not in their short-sighted economic interest to do so. Why don't some of you AOL guys build a TAPCIS or OZCIS type package to address forums?

Freedom, privacy, economic efficiency, These are all laudable goals, but they are ALWAYS achieved by those who actively devise mechanisms to secure them for themselves. Complaining and appealing to the powers that be almost never work until they can see it is not technically feasible to resist. Self reliance works. If you want lower AOL bills. you can have them. But Steve Case isn't going to hand them to you. And I am not certain even that he should.

Jack Rickard

God Bless You, Jack, you have done it again! In measured tones, you have condemned what is patently unjust and tyrannical, where there is need for such a witness and rallying cry!. As a lawyer and fellow American, I applaud your stand on this abuse of governmental power. As a citizen, I will add my voice to yours and, hopefully, others. It would be strange, indeed, if police state tactics such a you recount in the April issue could flourish here, now, after all we have been through.

Robert W. Muir 76665 111@COMPUSERVE.COM

Robert:

If we DON'T raise our voices, it can flourish here as easily as anywhere else, Mr. Muir. We were warned early in our history that vigilance will always be the price. Today, there are too many hoping someone, somewhere will be vigilant, or taking false comfort in the uncertain knowledge that it "couldn't happen here." News flash. We get the government we deserve. Thanks for writing.

Jack Richard

Dear Sir:

I think you and your staff are doing a good job with Boardwatch. I also see that you like to feature a new area every month. Yes, I am a sysop! But we would like the world to know that we have BBS's in South Korea.

I am in the U.S. Army and am stationed in South Korea. I am the sysop of the Publishing BBS, running RBBS-PC Ver 17.4 with mods. I know of about 24 BBS's running in South Korea with sysops who are in the military. How about doing a story on us, sysops in South Korea?

Thanks for taking the time to read this and keep up the good work with Boardwatch.

Michael Robinson. The Publishing BBS 011-82-351-869-3511

Dear Michael:

So many bulletin boards - so little time. We'll try.

Jack Richard

Dear Jack.

Bravo for your editorial and story of NAPLPS in your December 1992 issue. NAPLPS is such a tongue twister that it is no wonder there is so much controversy about it.

So let me helpy you demystify this technology. My background in NAPLPS stretches back over 10 years when I was the marketing manager for the first manufacturer of NAPLPS terminals in the world. It was my job to build a dealer network for a \$1,500 box that had no commercial services which it could access - how's that for a challenge!

I then moved on to a software company and accomplished the following:

-developed the first multi-user NAPLPS host server system (equivalent to today's BBS system) based upon an Altos system that ran under MPM

-travelled this system around the world for Canadian exporters exhibiting at international trade fairs.

- enhanced the system to act as an interactive retail point-of-purchase terminal which sold software in "The World's Biggest Bookstore", the flagship store of Coles Book Stores, Canada's biggest book chain.

The innovation of using a microcomputer to host a NAPLPS service was unheard of in 1983 when the concept was that you could only do it justice with a mainframe. We proved that concept false

The best thing we did, though, was to develop NAPLPS terminal software for the Commodore 64 - a \$200 toy with only 64K that was able to do splendid graphics for its time. We were the first to suggest that a dedicated hardware terminal was not the way to go for NAPLPS and tat the spreading enigma known as the personal computer was a more reasonable approach.

I can't begin to tell you the controversy that arose, especially when we announced our plan to license system onerators to give the software away for FREE! Can you imagine that one major system operator who was losing \$9 million a year did NOT want to be included in our FREE program and threatened me with a lawyer's letter? Amazing but true.

We even had a major telephone company commit an act of industrial espionage to discover the secrets of our soft-

Sonow, your publication will be the first to know that my secret weapon was a single individual, (a U.S. citizen no less) who was committed and dedicated to exploring advanced uses for personal computers. Starting this project in 1983 took a lot of courage. This single individual took a hardware device the "experts" all leughed at and made it perform full P. JPPS functionality.

While preparing the software for Viewtron, the Florida system operated by Knight Ridder Newspapers, we tested and retested the software against the authorized NAPLPS test frames and you can be sure that we had to pass the test in order for Viewtron to finally agree to distribute our product.

The NAPLPS chauvinist mentality which you refer to in both your editorial and in your story when describing the Microstar approach has been at the top of the obstacles to this interesting technology making any kind of headway in the market. Peter at Microstar thinks that everybody should pay him what IBM did for his software and has not subscribed to the theory that the widest possible distribution is what will kickstart the technology. It is also obvious that these type of software developers are out-of-touch with the reality of the business, and demonstrate incredibly poor business acumen by failing to understand how such an action would develop ongoing repeat business down the road.

Its amazing how short the road can be. Bell Canada a consumer NAPLPS service in Canada a couple of years ago. They spent millions on developing an access device - you guessed it-a dedicated terminal which the consumer would rent for \$8 a month. Sure they also bought a cheap software package which they initially distributed for free. The Microstar personality package sold for either \$149 or \$99 (my memory fails me), and didn't have half the stuff that a qualified terminal program should have.

Needless to say, it didn't take a full 2 years before Bell virtually abandoned

its service because the consumer didn't buy their terminal idea and then left the 3004 service providers they had recruited to hang out to dry while consumer access declined to bankrupt levels.

At any rate, all the rhetoric regarding NAPLPS functionality, compliance etc. is all there to protect the paranoid nepotism of those who have stayed in this business for so long. It is a narrow minded, short sighted attitude that has been the primary reason for NAPLPS failing to make its mark.

So if there are software developers in the BBS community who want to commit themselves to NAPLPS, then I will provide them with my NAPLPS expert (with whom I continue to maintain a decade long association) so that they can implement NAPLPS within their software.

Furthermore, the deal can be as affordable as adding another staff member to their team. NAPLPS wasn't meant to cost big bucks - it was meant to generate big bucks.

Once the news of this offer gets out you can be sure that I will once again be labelled a heretic and excommunicated by the remaining hardcore NAPLPS devotees. But I am big enough to withstand the insults of a half dozen ragtag survivors - the reward of hundreds of thousands of online NAPLPS users will be easy to bear.

Jack, I have watched your magazine grow over the past couple of years and have admired your dedication to the truth and your unrestricted approach to commentary. I hope that this letter will find its way into the pages of your magazine because the BBS community as a whole needs to know more about NAPLPS. I have tried to add perspective to your reporting. NAPLPS isn't a scary or expensive technological approach to graphics that the OLD GUARD would have everyone think. Now, if only NAPLPS could be renamed something that one could pronounce without thinking they are uttering something smutty.

### Boardwatch Magazine

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### Sincerely yours,

Zal Press Addison Information Systems 456 Glengarry Ave. Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5M 1G1 (416)477-7141 Jack:

I once did, personally, "blow up" a monitor by purely software means.

It went like this. 1981/1982, working for Phoenix Software, Neil gives me an IBM PC (not XT) to check out. In configuring it (or fooling around, I forget which) I set the DIP switch for the monitor type wrong: mono vs. color. The DIP switch is read by the ROM BIOS software, and determines how the 6845 controller chip is initialized. When I turned the machine on, it made a bad noise and the monitor went out. I was petrified: it was not my hardware and it was ugly alien machinery. Upon disassembly, I found a soldered-in fuse had blown: the incorrect video sync caused excess flyback current, presumably, and took the incorrectly-sized fuse with it.

This really happened. They certainly changed the design somehow, because this never happens any more. It was a very early PC; I don't remember the exact date, but I can date it to late 81 I think by where I was living at the time.

Tom Jennings tomj@fido.wps.com World Power Systems San Francisco CA

### MEA CIILPA

In our March issue article on PKWARE, Inc., developers of the PKZIP data compression utility, we included the wrong fax number for the company. The correct contact information for PKWARE, Inc. is 9025 North Deerwood Drive, Brown Deer, WI 53225; (414)354-8699 voice: (414)354-8559 fax: (414)354-8670 BBS. Note that PKWARE has since released version 2.04g of PKZIP which addresses many of the minor problems noted in our article.

### **TELEBITS**

### LONG DISTANCE COST BREAKDOWN

The cost of long distance telephone connections has dropped by some 44% since the breakup of the Bell System in 1984. During the same period, local telephone service rates have risen. One of the reasons cited by local telephone companies is that they often must provide flat rate service with none of the opportunities for incremental charge business that the long distance carriers have. We recently talked to several long distance carriers and found that this entire line of reasoning has a bit of a problem.

As best we can tell, the breakdown of a basic 12 cent per minute long distance telephone call is as follows:

Access charge paid to LOCAL telephone 4.5 company at point of call origin cents per minute.

Access charge paid to LOCAL telephone company at point of call termination: 4.5 cents per minute.

Cost of switching and hauling call across country by Long Distance Carrier: 1 cent per minute.

Administrative, accounting, and profit for Long Distance Carrier: 2 cents per minute.

Why are we paying local telephone companies these access fees? Without them, we would probably see long distance companies offering flat rate long distance service - or at least LD connections in the \$1.20 per hour range to anywhere within the United States. The access fees were mandated by the Justice Department as part of the Consent Decree that broke up the Bell System. At the time, the 4.5 cents seemed pretty modest. But with advances in technology, the cost of transporting a call across the country has fallen so dramatically, that nearly 75% of the cost of a long distance telephone call within the United States currently goes to local telephone companies. The breakup of the Bell System offers a laboratory demonstration

of competition on the one hand in the long distance carrier market and monopoly on the other in local telephone companies. We pay the price.

### MACRONIX MAXLITE 144/PC ENTRY IN CUTE POCKET MODEMS LINEUP

Macronix. Inc. may not be a very familiar name in the BBS community. But after playing with their MaxLite 144/ PC pocket modem, we think perhaps they should be. For those on the road, this little pocket rocket makes the connection in pretty good style.

The MaxLite 144/PC offers both 14,400 bps V.32bis data connections, and send and receive 14,400 bps V.17 fax transmissions, in a tiny unit that more closely resembles a mouse than anything else. The modem features V.42/V.42bis error correction/compression as well as MNP

The modem is very easy to use and works well at all speeds we tested. The package includes WinFax Lite. by Delrina Software, allowing you to fax from Windows. But it also includes a program titled MaxTalk that is a terminate and stay resident (TSR) program that allows you to pop up the fax function within any DOS program, and send the application file to a fax if it is in a format for delivery to any HP laser printer (PCL format support. Graphics and text arrive intact. The software also handles ASCII text, .PCX, or .TIF files with ease.

The unit includes a tiny 10 watt AC power transformer, and will run off of 9V alkaline batteries as well. Following a convention now common with pocket modems, a cable is provided to link the 9-pin micro DIN connector to a 9-pin AT style serial port.

The MaxLite is available in the MaxLite 144/PC model for PCs, and with slightly different cabling for Macintosh users in the MaxLite 144/M. The suggested list price for this unit is \$449, but they are commonly available for a street price of around \$349. Since pocket modems normally go at a bit of a premium for the



Macronix MAXLITE 144

size reduction, this is actually pretty attractive for 14.4 v.32bis and send/ receive 14.4 fax. Enough software comes with it to keep you puzzling through it for days, and it works quite well.

Our only complaint is that we've grown accustomed to pondering in amazement the various cunning leather pouch designs pocket modem manufacturers are devising since the introduction of the Telebit Oblazer. The MaxLite didn't include one at all. But the light weight and small size (the modem unit itself weighs 4.9 ounces without battery - and that's just 3.5 times the weight of a 9v battery itself) in a flat, rounded corner package (2 7/8 X 4 1/2 X 1") makes this very easy to carry in a laptop case. It does include a very clear speaker, and two LEDs to indicate on hook/off hook status, and data activity. Documentation is quite clear. For lapton/road use. this one looks like a winner. MACRONIX, Inc., 1348 Ridder Park Drive, San Jose, CA 95131; (408)453-8088 voice; (408)453-8488 fax.

### U.S. ROBOTICS SLASHES SPORTSTER PRICING UP TO 50%

As of March 15, 1993, U.S. Robotics announced dramatically reduced pricing on its Sportster fax and data modems. The company reduced prices on the entire product line with prices on high-speed Sportster models dropped 42 to 52 percent.

"U.S. Robotics is the only company that has lowered pricing to this extent - in some cases, we've cut prices in half," said Marshall Toplansky, U.S. Robotics vice president of marketing. "Continuing our history of strong price leadership, we're boosting the overall market and stimulating growth by making high speed modem technology accessible to a greater number of users. This price reduction enables our home office, small business, and entry-level customers to move up to high speed fax and data communications, at prices comparable to what 2400 bps modems sold for just last year."

The product has also been redesigned with a much smaller, more compact case. Additionally, U.S. Robotics has upgraded the fax capability to CCITT V.17, increasing performance from 9600 bps to a maximum of 14,400 bps for fax transmissions. They also include WinFax LITE, a special OEM Windows fax package from Delrina Software, makers of WinFax Pro. The new products are available now.

U.S. Robotics also has a 50% discount program on the COURIER line of modems for qualified BBS operators. The Sportster models are not included in the BBS discount program. They have also recently revised the program to allow payment by credit card. They've also established a European point of contact in France for sysops in Europe and an International 220v version of their power supply. European BBS operators can contact 33 20-471210 voice; 33 20-919927 fax; 33 20-059945 BBS.

New U.S. R	obotics Spor	tster Prices	
Model	New Price	Previous Price	Discount
Sportster 14,400 Fax	\$299	\$549	46%
Sportster 14,400 Fax/PC	\$259	\$499	48%
Sportster 14,400 Mac&Fax	\$329	\$599	45%
Sportster 14,400	\$259	\$519	50%
Sportster 14,400/PC	\$229	\$475	52%
Sportster 9600 Fax	\$249	\$439	43%
Sportster 9600 Fax/PC	\$239	\$409	42%
Sportster 9600	\$229	\$399	43%
Sportster 9600/PC	\$219	\$379	42%
Sportster 2400 Fax	\$169	\$249	32%
Sportster 2400 Fax/PC	\$159	\$229	31%
Sportster 2400 Mac&Fax	\$199	\$329	40%
Sportster 2400 V.42bis	\$149	\$229	35%
Sportster 2400 V.42bis/PC	\$139	\$199	30%
Sportster 2400	\$129	\$199	35%
Sportster 2400/PC	\$119	\$179	34%



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MMB DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
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904 Manhattan Avenue, Manhattan Beach, CA
1001 Manhattan Avenue, Manhattan Manhattan Manhattan Manhattan Manhattan Manh

The company has also recently coverted their product support bulletin board to PCBoard software at (708)892-5092. U.S. Robotics, (NASDAQ:USRX), 8100 North McCormick Blvd., Skokie, IL 60076: (800-DIAI\_USR.

# BRINKER NAMED PRESIDENT OF GALACTICOMM, INC.

Scott J. Brinker was named President and Chief Executive Office of Galacticomm, Inc., Florida-based developer of The Major BBS, a multi-user bulletin board system supporting up to 256 simultaneous users on a single machine.

Brinker has been with the company as Vice President since December 1990, when his own company, Galactic Innovations, Inc., merged with Galacticomm. During the past two years, Brinker has at various times led the marketing, engineering, and sales departments of the company. More recently, he has served as general manager, coordinating efforts of the entire business.

"I intend to lead the company with an aggressive development plan and a focus on the success of our customers," says Brinker. "Immediate attention will be paid to expanding our customer service, international business, and third-party developer relations. I'm very proud of the team I'm working with and thrilled about the opportunities before us."

Tim Stryker, founder of Galacticomm, has resigned as President and CEO, although he does remain as Chairman of the Board. Says Stryker, "Scott has been leading the strategic vision of Galacticomm for quite a while now. I have total confidence in his success as CEO and for the continued growth of the company. This is the beginning of a fantastic new ren."

Recently, Galacticomm announced an alliance with two graphics and terminal program companies, and continues to remain a leader in the commercial BBS software industry. Anew release of The Major BBS is expected this spring. Galacticomm, Inc., 4101 SW 47th Ave.

Suite 101, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33314; (305)583-5990 voice; (305)583-7846 fax; (305)583-7808 RRS

### GARBAGE DUMP BBS ANNOUNCES LOCAL ACCESS NUMBERS NATIONWIDE

The Garbage Dump BBS announced February 22nd, their expansion to 63 lines, with local access in over 500 U.S. cities. The Garbage Dump specializes in real-time adult chat, uncensored message forums, ASP downloadable files, online dating registry, casino-style games, and multiplayer adventure games.

The local access numbers will allow users to call The Garbage Dump with a local telephone call to an X.25 network service provider. Previously, users outside the local calling areas of Albuquerque, New Mexico, and Denver, Colorado, had to pay long distance fees in order to connect to the BBS. The new access numbers will allow access at low as \$2 hourly for evening and weekend use.

"We felt the addition of local access at an attractive rate during our heaviest usage periods in the evenings and weekends would increase our user base, as well as save our long distance callers a considerable amount of money," said Dean Kerl, system operator of The Garbage Dump, "We were aware that many of our users were limiting the amount of time they spent on The Garbage Dump because of the cost of long distance. The response has been overwhelming and we had to increase our incoming capacity from 47 simultaneous users to the current 63 since the local numbers came online February 1.'

The Garbage Dump BBS first went online on December 1, 1990 with 4 lines. The service currently receives 1700+ calls daily from a user base of over 5000 callers. Data Safe Publications, Inc., PO Box 16032, Albuquerque, NM87191; (5005)294-4980 voice; (505)294-8980 voice; (505)294-575 BBS.

### MUSTANG SOFTWARE UNVEILS VERSION 3.6 OF WILDCATURES

Mustang Software announced on March 15 that they have begun shipping Version 3.6 of their popular BBS package -Wildcat! BBS. The update includes a new program called wcDRAW, which allows sysops to easily create multicolored ANSI screens, wcDRAW is a menu-driven utility to create, edit, and manage the various display files, menus, bulletins, and help files associated with the Wildcat! BBS. It fully supports Wildcat! embedded control codes, allowing operates to customize screens sent to remote callers. For example, @FIRST@ would actually be replaced with the callers first name when the screen is viewed online Wildcat currently sports some 67 different insertion parameters.

wcDRAW features full mouse support, block copy, move, fill, and stamp ability. Line drawing capabilities allow sysops toselect different line types and weights. Because wcDRAW reads WILDCAT's configuration and conference definition files, the sysop can see how the files look in each conference.

"Our customers have always had to purchase a third party ANSI drawing program in order to create powerful color screens for their BBS," said Jim Harrer, President/CEO of MSI. "Creating screens was always a source of frustration for our customers, so we decided to develop a program that would make it fun again."

Version 3.6 was also enhanced to add a scrolling message text feature. Header information such as FROM, TO, and SUBJECT remains fixed at the top of the caller screen while message text longer than a single screen in length scrolls beneath it. The QWK mail door (TOMCAT) was enhanced to support Fido Netmail messages and Wildcat! continues to be one of the few bulletin board packages supporting file attachments in QWK mail.

The upgrade is available to current Wildcat! operators at \$20. The Wildcat! software is available in a variety of

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### FIIFMAN

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Also, with enhancements for the Copy-ItI module for CD-ROM and DISK LAN based systems. This allows CD-ROM Access with ZERO TIBBS Impact on LAN based systems. Supports 65 lines and 10 tasks. Fileman now supports CD-ROM carousets and sk-packs. Fileman loso has enhancements for Topeman Online Tape Backuy System.

Some options require LAN setup, and Copy-ItI

### COPY-ITI

At \$109.00. Copy-ITI is an option that allows CD-ROM and DISC SETVER operations on a LAN. Use Copy-ItI with FileMan for GIF preview and Zero impact File Transfer. Use With TapeMan for Disc Backups without taking down the board! Copy-ItI can handle 55 lines with 10 concurrent tasks! Copy-ItI also has timed and real time event processing for TIMS 1.1 and TIC.

ASR's FILEMAN/COPY-ITI combination is the only system to directly support the PIONEER DRM-600 CD-ROM 6 Disc Changer. The DRM-600 is available from ASR at only \$938.00 complete with shipping.

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or contact us for further information 1475 Terminal Way, Bldg. C-2 Reno Nevada 89502 or call... (702) 334-3304

### SYSMON

At \$7700 SYSMON is a realtime remote control system designed to look and work just like the little of the control system designed to look and work just like the little of the control or to 65 lines including the control or 105 lines including the control or 105 lines including the control or 105 lines and system overview and clarm watch colles as a system overview and clarm watch system usage logging. IDSS application sucre logging and aduption to 105 lines of 105 line

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### **GotoCommand**

At \$7200 Golocommand is an amazingly configurable menu jump system. This program configurable menu jump system. This program shall be a supplementation of the program of the state of the system of t

### BULLETS

At \$52.00 Bullets is a highly configurable bulletin display and management system. Bullets is complete with bulletin display by authorization, configurable colors. Bulletin last display for modes, forced read and enter the system of the production of the system of the

This is just a small listing of available software... CALL ASR FOR A FULL CATALOG

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### BBS MODEM DISCOUNT PROGRAMS

VENDOR	MODEL	LIST	SYSOP	BBS	VOICE	FAX
AT&TParadyne	Dataport 14.4/Fax	\$555	\$222	813-532-5254	813-530-2000	813-530-2398
ATITechnologies	9600 ETC-E	\$499	\$275	416-756-4591	416-756-0718	416-756-0720
Cardinal Technologies	9600V42V.32	\$349	\$219	717-293-3074	717-293-3000	717-293-3104
Cardinal Technologies	14400V32bis	\$449	\$249	717-293-3074	717-293-3000	717-293-3104
Computer Peripherals	Viva9624e V.32	\$349	\$249	805-499-9646	805-499-5751	805-498-8306
Digicom Systems	ScoutPlus V.32bis	\$389	\$210	408-262-1412	408-262-1277	408-262-1390
Digicom Systems	Scout V.32	\$299	\$195	408-262-1412	408-262-1277	408-262-1390
Galaxy Networks	UFO V.32bis	\$999	\$299	No BBS	818-998-7851	818-998-1758
GVCTechnologies	FM-9696/144V V.32bis	\$689	\$413	201-579-2380	201-579-3630	201-579-2702
GVCTechnologies	SM-96V V.32	\$599	\$329	201-579-2380	201-579-3630	201-579-2702
Hayes Microcomputer	Ultra 144 V.32bis	\$999	\$499	404-446-6336	404-840-9200	404-449-0087
Hayes Microcomputer	Optima 144+Fax	\$519	\$299	404-446-6336	404-840-9200	404-449-0087
Hayes Microcomputer	ISDN System Adapter	\$1199	\$650	404-446-6336	404-840-9200	404-449-0087
Image Communications	Twincomm 9600 V.32	\$299	\$279	No BBS	201-935-8880	201-935-6548
Intel Corporation	14.4EX V.32bis	\$549	\$269	503-645-6275	503-629-7000	503-228-9707
Intel Corporation	9600EXV.32	\$599	\$299	503-645-6275	503-629-7000	503-228-9707
Multi-Tech Systems	MT932BA V.32	\$869	\$435	612-785-9875	612-785-3500	612-785-9874
Multi-Tech Systems	MT1432BA V.32bis	\$899	\$450	612-785-9875	612-785-3500	612-785-9874
Practical Peripherals	PM14400FXSAV.32bis	\$549	\$250	805-496-4445	805-497-4774	805-374-7202
Practical Peripherals	PM14400FXMTV.32bis	\$399	\$200	805-496-4445	805-497-4774	805-374-7202
Quadralink Technologies	1496V+	\$360	\$320	416-538-9999	416-538-0101	416-538-1355
QuickComm	Sprit II V.32bis	\$249	\$220	408-956-1358	408-956-8236	408-956-1345
Supra Corporation	SupraFAX V.32bis	\$399	\$249	503-967-2444	503-967-2400	503-967-2401
Supra Corporation	SupraFAX V.32	\$299	\$199	503-967-2444	503-967-2400	503-967-2401
Telebit Corporation	T3000 V.32bis	\$949	\$399	408-745-3229	408-734-4333	408-734-3333
Telebit Corporation	WorldBlaze	\$1049	\$429	408-745-3229	408-734-4333	408-734-3333
Telebit Corporation	QBlaze	\$549	\$299	408-745-3229	408-734-4333	408-734-3333
U.S. Robotics	Courier DS V.32bis/Fax	\$1295	\$449	708-982-5092	708-982-5010	708-982-0823
U.S. Robotics	Courier V.32bis/Fax	\$695	\$299	708-982-5092	708-982-5010	708-982-0823
U.S. Robotics	Courier HST V.32bis/Fax	\$995	\$349	708-982-5092	708-982-5010	708-982-0823
Ven-Tel	EC96V.32	\$699	\$439	408-922-0988	408-436-7400	408-436-7451
ZyXEL	U-1496+V.32bis	\$989	\$549	714-693-0762	714-693-0804	714-693-0705
ZyXEL	U-1496E+V.32bis	\$649	\$399	714-693-0762	714-693-0804	714-693-0705
ZyXEL	U-1496E V.32bis	\$469	\$299	714-693-0762	714-693-0804	714-693-0705

configurations starting at \$129 for a singleline version, Mustang Software, Inc. (MSI) claims some 15,000 registered users of Wildcat! BBS software and over 80,000 registered users of its Qmodem communications software. Mustang Software, Inc., PO Box 2264, Bakersfield, CA 93303; (805)395-0223 voice: (805)395-0713 fax: (805)395-0650 BBS.

### **CUSTOMS SERVICE** WARRANTS FOR CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

The United States Department of the Treasury U.S. Customs Service conducted an early morning nationwide crackdown on bulletin board users March 4, 1993 serving 31 search warrants in 15 states and 30 cities. The warrants were served by over 300 federal, state, and local law enforcement officials on suspicion of illegal importation, distribution, sale, and use of hightechnology exchanges of child pornography.

The crackdown was the culmination of a year-long undercover Customs service operation known as "Operation Longarm." It is the largest anti-child pornography effort ever mounted in U.S. history. Between federal and state search warrants, a total of 40 locations

were presented with warrants. Over 100 customs service agents were involved in the investigation over the past

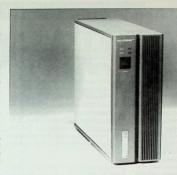
Operation Longarm was conducted from the Custom's Service's Miami office and is the held to be the first long term investigation by the service of computer bulletin boards. The operation began in March 1992 when Customs agents ran a sting operation against a man in Dade County Florida. As a result of this operation, the service became aware of a bulletin board titled BAMSE operated in Aalborg, Denmark by Kai Kanstrupt. BAMSE apparently was a subscription service offering hundreds of GIF images of children involved in sexually explicit conduct. On May 12, 1992, police in Aalborg seized the BBS computer system, and all subscriber records along with hundreds of photographs depicting child nornography.

Police in Denmark provided materials to the customs service in June 1992 which brought to light that over 100 subscribers to BAMSE were U.S. citizens. The Customs Service subscribed to a second BBS in Denmark, titled SCREWDRIVER and gained access to its membership lists which included names and addresses of U.S. citizens In September 1992, an undercover agent infiltrated a third bulletin board in Denmark titled VESTBJERG where he downloaded several hard-core child pornography pictures. On October 6, Danish police served a search warrant at the residence of Mr. Carsten Lund, operator of SCREWDRIVER and on October 14. they likewise raided the residence of Mr. Benny Mortenson, operator of VESTBJERG. Additional information on U.S. citizens were obtained in these raids. Of the warrants served here in the United States, few actually involved bulletin boards - most were callers to the bulletin boards in Denmark

### **EXIDE PERSONAL 2000 UPS**

We take electrical power for granted until it is gone. Fortunately, 120VAC power in the United States is fairly reliable - an enormous comfort if the document you've been working on for the last four hours goes up in smoke because of a 5 minute power outage. For bulletin board system operators, the situation is even more critical. If you have 20 users online, and your power goes out, they are dumped rather unceremoniously into the ether. Since power didn't fail at their location in most places. they tend to get irritated if the outage occurred 450KB into a 500KB downheal

The answer is the Uninterruptable Power Supply or UPS. One of the least exciting topics we are likely to address in Boardwatch, but for some installations, a necessary one. Not only can power outages be inconvenient, they can actually damage equipment in cer-



Exide Personal 2000 UPS 1300 watt uninterruptable power supply

tain circumstances. A UPS typically serves to filter out transient voltage spikes and noise from the AC waveform - protecting your equipment from damage caused by line voltage variations. Further, a UPS provides at least a few minutes of battery backup power. This allows an orderly shut down of your equipment in the case of a long outage, and often all you need is to save the current document you are working on to make the difference between minor annovance and a disastrous loss of work. In the event of the more frequent 5minute outage variety, a UPS will be enough to keep you going right through the blackout.

We recently played with one of the best UPS we've seen. The Exide Personal 2000 Uninterruptable Power Supply, is almost overkill even for a multiline BBS. The unit is rated at 2000 volt-amperes (VA) - about 1300 watts and includes battery backup. An optional \$149 serial communications card allows you to set up your computer to monitor the UPS operation and perform an orderly shut down if necessary. They do offer an automatic shutdown software option called OnliNet that will actually monitor the port and detect a signal from the UPS when the batteries run low, and

perform an orderly shutdown of all equipment before the battery backup runs out.

UPS are generally rated in watts and come in sizes from about 300 watts on up. Basically, you add up the total wattage of your system and buy one a little bigger than the total. The average PC consumes about 150 watts while file servers with large drives etc. can run as high as 275-350 watts. A color monitor uses about 60 watts. Modems typically use a small 200ma plug in power supply -typically 15-20 watts each. A standard PC, monitor, and modem would run about 250 watts.

Exide actually makes UPS systems rated at up to 1000 kVA (6,500,000 watts) with their model 3800ES and down to 350 VA (250 Watt) unit with the Personal Powerware Model 500. The Model 500 carries a list price of \$649 while the Model 3800ES typically lists for about \$400,000. Actually, you can install up to 13 of the 3800ES units for a 13000 kVA total capacity if power is what you need.

The unit we looked at was the Personal Powerware Model 2000, It could handle roughly 5 PC's with monitors and modems, or for our application, two PCs and 15 modems rather handily with room to spare. One of the overriding questions everyone has about UPSs is "how long will it run the system when the power goes out?" This is where having a bigger UPS than you need comes into play. The 2000 will support a 1000 watt load for about 15 minutes, or a 400 watt load for about 50 minutes,

The model 2000 with a 2000 VA capacity lists for \$2699. Individual dealers typically discount these list prices up to 20%. The unit is expandable in that you can add extension batteries at \$539 each. These do not extend the maximum power rating of 2000 VA, but they DO extend the backup times by providing more of the 48vdc batteries the system uses. Under a 750 watt load, for example, this extension battery will add about 23 minutes to the backup duration. You can very easily remove the side cover on this unit and slide on an additional battery extension and these daisy chain more or less endlessly. The battery extenders are packaged so that they blend completely into the look of the overall unit. The overall package, though heavy, is sturdily built with metal cabinet. It's a handsome enclosure - if that matters.

The batteries fully charge in about 8 hours. We had ours on for six when coincidentally, the power went out for about 20 minutes - a serendipitous test event under real world conditions. Our PCs operated without a single dropped character with 10 people on the Boardwatch BBS. The green light on the UPS went red, and a not terribly obnoxious chirping alarm sounded every few seconds. No maintenance, no reset, no problem.

The UPS is available in configurations for 120 or 240 VAC. Our 120 VAC unit posed a minor inconvenience in that it features an odd type of electrical plug designed for 20 AMP circuits - one blade of the three prong plug is turned sideways. A little investigation at a local hardware store revealed that indeed there is a particular type of receptacle for this that is supposed to be used with 20 amp circuits to differentiate them from the more common 15 amp circuits. Unfortunately, most buildings, even

those that have 20 amp circuits, use ordinary electrical receptacles. We actually had to replace our receptacle to use this UPS.

We calculate we were putting about a 750 watt load on the Personal Power Model 2000. After running the UPS for several days to ensure the batteries were fully charged, we pulled the plug. Our system ran continuously on battery power for one hour and 41 minutes (101 minutes). The chirping alarm becomes more frequent as the batteries deplete until the system finally shuts down completely, and rather suddenly. But we were impressed it delivered considerably longer life than the system ratings indicated.

The company is a bit of an enigma. Like many corporations selling to the computer community, they have a system of dealers who support the product. As a result, we found they don't know what the price of anything is, and don't know much else about it either. They prefer to refer you to a dealer. Interestingly, the dealers we talked to don't know anything either. More accurately, we're told that each sale is different depending on quantity and installation. Translated - whatever price we think we can get from the boob on the other end of the phone. Another interesting thing is that for years we have heard of Exide batteries. This UPS uses batteries from Yaesu.

Despite this, the Exide unit looks to be the Cadillac of UPS systems. They carry a two year warranty, on everything except the batteries (???? - isn't that what most of this thing is???). But it works well, and offers connections to LANs or serial ports. Exide Electronics, 8521 Six Forks Road, Raleigh, NC 27615; (800)554-3448 voice; (919)872-3020 international; (800)75-EXIDE fax.

### RUSTY & EDIE'S BBS BACK ONLINE

In our story last month on the seizure of Rusty & Edie's BBS, Russell by the end of the month. True to his word, as of February 26th, Rusty & Edie's BBS was back online with 32 lines. The system is available at (216)726-2620 sporting a whole bevy of new ZyXEL modems and a new location in Youngstown. Rusty & Edie's BBS, 7393 Claifornia Ave. #7, Youngstown, OH 44512; (216)726-4217 voice; (216)726-3595 fax.

### SOFTWARE NOTES

## IMPROVING ON WORDPERFECT

By Jim Thompson Western News Service

Word processors have been around for so long that they can no longer be considered exotic or even exciting. But that does not mean they are not an important weapon in your computer arsenal. Aside from the operating system itself, Word processors are still the most used of all computer programs.

In the world of word processors, WordPerfect is among the top echelon. WordPerfect is the best selling DOS word processing package for the PC. Although the Windows edition of this program has been a bit slower in gaining popularity, the newest version also promises to take a dominate role in the word processing wars.

Here is a list of some of the best shareware programs for WordPerfect.

### **REAL LAW**

This program provides a menu driven system for automating some of the more mundane tasks in a legal office. Specifically, it helps in the handling of forms and form letters.

Among the forms provided are affidavits, motions, depositions, orders and petitions, REALLAW allows you to load the forms in WordPerfeet, fill in the blanks and then print them. The demo version includes seven forms. If you register the program, you will receive more than 110 forms — virtually every form normally required by a law office.

The real power of REAL LAW comes when you generate a client database.

### Professional Bulletin Board Software

# WILDCAT! BBS

Wildcat! leads the pack when it comes to features, performance and innovation. MSI was the first to include offline mail reading software in a BBS package, the first with MHS support, and is the only company to offer NetWare bindery access and a multiline product that runs eight lines with separate DOS sessions on a single PC. There's a Wildcat! version for just about any application from a single-line neighborhood BBS to a wide-area network system.



# Check out these features!

- XMODEM, YMODEM, ZMODEM, YMODEM-G, 1K-XMODEM-G and KERMIT
- Multi-line operation of 250 nodes, up to eight on one PC.
- · DOORS
- 1,000 message conferences, file areas and security levels.
- · Full-screen message editor with quoting.
- · File attachments to messages.
- · Text can be uploaded into a message.
- · File marking while viewing for later download.
- Operates with virus checking software.
- Full sysop maintenance when system is taking calls.
- · 1.000 configurable events per node.
- Relational links between the message area, file area, and user databases, allowing the sysop to access related records.
- Enhanced support for CD-ROM files and changers.

We have the best value in BBS software. You don't have to buy an add-on mail door or add a program to make it do simple Zmodem downloads! The popular remote control program DOORWAY is even included FREE with the IM version of WILDCAT! You not only get the most for your money when you make your initial purchase, but you get full credit for your software investment when you upgrade it to support extra lines. We appreciate our customers.

# Check out these prices!

The Wildcatt Single Line release supports one incoming phone line on a single PC or network workstation. It also lets you run your BBS in the background under DESOview! \$129.00

A great entry-level BBS or office system, Wildcat! Multiline handles 1-10 incoming lines. It can operate on a LAN where all ten lines can be dial-in or local access. Installed on a single PC under DESQview, Wildcat Multiline is able to handle up to four incoming lines plus local access. \$240.00

The Professional Multiline release supports 1-250 incoming lines or local LAN connections, and has all the same features of the other systems, including DESQview support. \$499.00

The Intelligent MultiPort (IM) version is a special release of WILDCAT! that communicates only with the DigiBoard Intelligent Multi-Port card. Using WILDCAT! IM you can connect up to eight external modems via an octopus cable to a single 486 using the multitasking program DESQview from Quarterdeck Office Systems. Multiple DigiChannel PC workstations can be linked tögether on a LAN to provide 16, 24, or even 32 or more lines since the IM version supports up to 250 connections. \$799.00

If you haven't tried Wildcat! you haven't experienced the best in BBS telecommunications today. For a free copy or our Test-Drive version, call 1-800-999-9619 and ask for offer #WB100.



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### SHAREWARE FOR WORD PERFECT

### **REAL LAW PROGRAM** (AUTOLAW.COM)

AA Computer Learning Center 101 N. State Road 7 Suite #7 Margate, FL 33063 Requires WordPerfect 5.1 - will not work with earlier versions Registration Fee: \$59.00. plus \$5.00 S&H

### UMLAUTER

(UMLAUTER.ZIP) Available for donwload on American Online Registration Fee: Free

### **HEBREW KEYBOARD** (HEBWBK,ZIP) Alan Z. Fromm

CompuServe: 72070.1427 Registration Fee: Free

### MACROADE

Jeffrey S. Kane Performance Sciences International 3001 Latta Drive, Suite 1250 Summerfield, NC 27358 Registration Fee: \$25.00 (includes unlimited telephone support)

### WPTOOLS 5.1

Jim Seidman Software by Seidman 2737 Devonshire Pl. NW Washington, DC 20008 Registration Fee: \$25.00 for WPTOOLS

### COMPARE

James H White Whiteware 8544 Bryan St. Louis, MO 63117 Registration Fee: \$20.00

### TRAINING FOR WORDPERFECT

(WP50TUT.ZIP) James Dietrichs **R&D** Associates 12228 Venice Blvd. Suite 467 Mar Vista, CA 90066 Registration Fee: \$33.00 (Includes all three volumes of the tutorial)

With more than 70 fields, the database allows you to compile some very sophisticated statistics about your clients. This same database information is used to fill in any of the various forms automatically.

The database and forms are tied together with an excellent menuing system which guides you through the entire process of creating the forms and adding information relating to an individual client. When you call a form to be filled in with information relation to a client from the database all related forms are also generated.

### UMLAUTER (UMLAUTER.ZIP)

Typing special characters used in foreign languages can be a big problem in WordPerfect or any U.S. word processor. If German is your language, then UMLAUTER is what you need.

German and a number of other languages require an umlaut (two dots) above certain characters. Umlauter consists of seven macros that allow you to insert the special umlauted characters and the German double "s" character. It's simple to use and free for the asking.

### HEBREW MACRO AND KEYBOARD SET (HEBWPK.ZIP)

This program uses a combination of macros and WordPerfect's capability to re-map the keyboard to create the Hebrew character set. If a character is not available in the normal character set for the selected font, the character is printed as a graphic of a size and style that matches the font being used. The program also enters characters from right-to-left, as is normal when writing in Hebrew.

The one major drawback is that you cannot see the Hebrew characters as you type. Instead of the Hebrew characters, token characters are displayed. Switching to display mode (Shift-F7. 6), displays what was typed.

The documentation is a bit on the light side, but with a little work it isn't too hard to sort out.

### MACRO CREATION AND EDITING TOOL (MACROADE)

Creating macros in WordPerfect is easy -editing those same macros is another story. WordPerfect's macro-editing tools are awkward at hest. Since macros are stored in a special format, they also cannot be edited as a text file by WordPerfect or any other word processor. So, what do you do? Get MacroAde.

MacroAde is a great little tool for converting WordPerfect macros into an ASCII text file and for converting macros written as text files into WordPerfect macro format. This allows you to use WordPerfect or any word processor that creates ASCII text to create your mac-

There is also a utility which will check your macros for missing tildes and one that imports external data for use as macro variables You will also find a list. of all macro and keystroke commands and codes and a utility to convert macros to version 5.1.

An easy-to-use menuing system takes all the mystery out of creating macros in WordPerfect.

### WPTOOLS 5.1

This package contains several useful programs. It is a must for anyone using WordPerfect. Included in the package are the following:

WP5LOOK. This nifty little program allows you to view WordPerfect files outside WordPerfect exactly as they will be printed. It recognizes WordPerfect formatting characters and uses them. WP5LOOK also allows you to search for text within a document and to display multiple documents.

LISTMACS. This program looks at the macro (.WPM) or keyboard (.WPK) files in a directory and lists the names and descriptions of the macros in the files. It can handle up to 1,000 macros - a great way to keep track of the macros you may have forgotten.

WPGSIZE. This provides additional information about .WPG graphics files. It will tell you the dimensions of the "image coordinate space" and display the width and height in inches.

FONTFILE. This will make a list of the downloadable font files used by a specified .PRS (printer driver) file.

FONTLIST. This program will look at a WordPerfect document and list the names of the fonts it uses and the .PRS file required. It's very useful if you receive a document from someone else and are not sure how to print it.

WPSNOOP. This program provides a way to determine if a file was created in WordPerfect or was produced by another WordPerfect product. It will also tell you what. PRS file and printer are needed to get a printout.

### COMPARE

COMPARE does a word-by-word comparison of two WordPerfect documents, then creates a third document which indicates the differences between the two. COMPARE marks individual words not just on a phrase level like Word Perfect's own comparison feature. Any word added to the newer document are marked with a double-underline, deleted words from the older document are shown in redline.

You can also change the display if you wish. An additional program lets you use strikeout, brackets or < > to mark deleted words and underlining, double-underlining or boldface to mark new words.

COMPARE will not work with files larger than 64K. Despite this limitation, its a great little program.

### TRAINING FOR WORDPERFECT (WP50TUT.ZIP)

Although the name implies that this is a tutor for WordPerfect version 5.0, it is equally useful for learning version 5.1. The full registered version of this program consits of three volumes. You will get volume one, a fully function, although limited version of the program, with the original download and its yours to use at no charge.

Training for WordPerfect does not require that you own the word processor. This is nice for those who want to get a feel of the program before they buy.

The package includes instructions on all aspects of document manipulation, including how to move and copy text, the use of special printing effects, formatting and the use of the Spell Checker and Thesaurus. The simple, straight-forward menus will have you using this excellent program in a matter of minutes, even you don't read the documentation.

Jim Thompson is Managing Editor at Western News Service in Los Angeles, California. He also operates the Philip Morris Racing Information System BBS used by over 400 journalists to access up-to-theminute automobile race results and track-side reports. He can be reached by e-mail at 321-4127@mcimail.com - Editor]

### **ANSI Music**

by Alan D. Bryant

The online world is laced with numerous methods and approaches to communicating by modem. One of the most obscure is so-called ANSI music, a way to play basic music on a caller's PC online.

By today's standards, ANSI music inn't much—ifyou're expecting stereo high-fidelity music through your SoundBlaster card online, forget it. ANSI music provides the online equivalent to a child's toy piano only a little less complex than that. For all it is not, ANSI music is a well supported de facto standard method to jazz up the online interface a modem user can enioy.

Technically, ANSI music is a singlevoice way to play simple melodies. A "single voice" means that only one note can be played at a time, precluding the use of chords or multiple overlapping music sequences. The sound generated by an ANSI music capable terminal program is, therefore, not anything stellar. Still, a well written ANSI music sequence can have a lot of life to it, with quarter notes, whole notes, sharps, flats, rests, and several octaves of range available.

ANSI music itself, as the name suggests, is sent as a variation of the ANSI escape sequence — the same type of mechanism used to control the cursor and color attributes between a host (BBS) and the remote (a caller). Like any other ANSI escape sequence, it begins with the escape character (ASCII 27), followed by a left square bracket ([ 17]). ANSI music sequences are then followed by a capital letter "M", an encoded music sequence, then a Ctrl-N character (ASCII 14).

The encoded music sequence is a string of characters that conforms to the format of the PLAY statement in the BA-SIC included with virtually every IBM or compatible PC. If you have a BASIC manual that came with your computer, you have the information you need to create a music sequence. The characters used are shown in the accompanying table.

Although it's possible to create ANSI music 'by hand' it's a fairly laborious process. Enter Melody Master, a shareware music composition program written by Russian emigre Alexei Efros. Jr. Using a graphical interface consisting of the musical scales, Melody Master allows you to 'type' notes and rests on the scales in the same manner as a composer writes music. Sophisticated single-voice melodies become an interesting and fun experience to create.

Melody Master exists primarily to teach children and adults alike the principles of music notation and structure. The

# In ANSI music, "My Darlin' Clementine" looks like so: ^{[MFMNT150L803C.L16CL4C<GP64L8>E.L16EL4ECL8C.L16EL4G.L16G

^[[MFL803F.116EL2DP32L8D.L16EL4FFL8E.L16DL4ECL8C.L16EL4D<GL8B.L15>D
^[[MFL203CP8L8C.L16CL4C<GF64L8>E.L16EL4ECL8C.L16EL4G.L16GL8F.L16E
^[[MFL203CP8L8D.L16EL4FFL8E.L16DL4ECL8C.L16EL4G.L16GL8F.L16EA

^[[MF12O3DF32L8D.L16EL4FFL8E.L16DL4ECL8C.L16EL4D<GL8B.L16>DL2CF8
^[[MFP64 ^N

(^[ = Esc, ^N = Ctrl-N)

program comes complete with 100 music files to get you started, which you can simply listen to, view to see how others put songs together, or edit to hear the subtle effects of minor changes. Melody Master uses its own format for storage of music files. Once you get a melody you like, exporting the file to ANSI format consists of a few simple keystrokes. For people who want to generate ANSI music, the only drawback to the program is that it can't read pre-existing ANSI music files - only its own native format (and that of a similar program, Piano Man). If your goal is to create your own music (or to place one of the 100 stock songs online) Melody Master fits the bill nicely.

With no pre-existing knowledge of music, we were able to place some notes on the scales and get something that vaguely resembles a melody of some sort. The program's editing capabilities are somewhat klunky and nonintuitive, but you quickly get the hang of it. After typing any number of notes, you can easily play the tune from the beginning or from your current location in the composition using "debug play" mode. For interesting musical analysis, you can even play your compositions backwards. Registration of the shareware package costs just \$19 (plus shipping) for personal use: \$49 for commercial use. Registered copies include even more songs than the shareware version. (Melody Master Version 2.1, by Alexei A. Efros, Jr., 4544 South Brockbank Dr., Salt Lake City, Utah 84124. Sold by Shareable Software International, P. O. Box 59102, Schaumburg, IL 60159; 800-622-2793 Voice.)

Once you have ANSI music, the next hurdle is enabling your users to hear it. Many communications software packages support ANSI music, but many others don't. Qmodem has long-supported the standard, and older shareware versions as well as the latest Qmodem Pro feature it. GT-Powercomm is another choice. The popular Procomm Plus and Procomm Plus for Windows, however, do not include ANSI music support Even if a program does not support ANSI music, however, its presence is simply ignored in the communications software we

tested — provided the program has its ANSI mode enabled.

One of the interesting effects of ANSI music is that the compositions are generally small in terms of the number of bytes, and therefore transmit quickly. The ANSI music implementations we've seen (such as Qmodem) play the music in the background with proper timing, while the session online continues normally. This allows for special effects, such as putting ANSI music at the beginning of a screen display: the screen can be painted while the music plays. It's an interesting way for BBS sysops to, for example, say "Happy Holidays" in animated ANSI while "Jingle Bells" plays in the background.

Table of Single-Character Commands Used for ANSI Music Sequences

A-G[#,+,-] - A-G are notes. # or + following a note produces a sharp; - produces a flat.

L(n) - Sets the length of each note. L4 is a quarter note, L1 is a whole note, and so on. "n" may be from 1 to 64. Length may also follow the note to change the length for that note only. A16 is equivalent to L16A.

**MN** - Music normal. Each note plays seven-eighths of the time determined by L (length).

ML - Music legato. Each note plays the full period set by L.

MS - Music staccato. Each note plays three-quarters of the time determined by L.

N(n) - Play note "n". "n" may be in the range from 0 to 84, such as N45. In the 7 possible octaves, there are 84 notes. n set to 0 indicates a rest.

O(n)-Sets the current octave to "n". "n" may be in the range 0 to 6, such as O5. The default is 4. Middle C is at the beginning of octave 3.

P(n) - Pause. "n" may be in the range from 1 to 64, such as P25.

T(n) - Sets the tempo to "n". "n" may be

in the range from 32 to 255, such as T127. The default is 120.

. (period) - A period after a note increases the playing time of the note by 3/2 times the period determined by L (length of note) time T (tempo). Multiple periods can appear after a note, and the playing time is scaled accordingly. For example, A. will cause the note A to play one and one half times the playing time determined by L times T; two periods placed after A (A..) will cause the note to be played at 9/4 times its ascribed value; an A with three periods (A...) at 27/8, etc. Periods may also appear after a P (pause) and increase the pause length in the same manner

>n - A greater-than symbol preceeding the note "n" plays the note in the next higher octave.

<n - A less-than symbol preceding the note "n" plays the note in the next lower octave.

### FAX/OCR SOFTWARE: NOT READY FOR PRIMETIME

There was a little girl,
Who wore a little curl,
Right in the middle of her forehead.
When she was good,
She was very, very good.
And when she was bad,
She was horrid. - Traditional limerick

By Thom Foulks

That's the current state of fax/OCR software, I've learned, after weeks of trying to put it to productive use and learning how others are using it.

An author faxed to himself the typed manuscript of a 1970's book he needed to update, then used OCR (optical character recognition) software to convert it to word processor files. A Braille instructor is faxing pages of learning materials to herself, using OCR software to convert it to computer text, then other software to send it to a Braille printer.

Fax and OCR, especially computer-to-

computer, are a marriage made in heaven - when everything works right. Fax and OCR, when dealing with older fax machines and copyingmachine copies, are a shotgun wedding at best ... a nightmare, at worst.

I've looked at five fax/OCR packages, and asked my BBS users how they've been using this new coupling of supersophisticated software and high-speed faxmodems. The products are Intel's FAXability Plus/OCR. Calera's FaxGrabber, Caere's AnyFax (in Delrina's Winfax Pro), Bitfax/OCR for Windows (also AnyFax- based), and Ocron's Perceive Personal. Along the way, I also checked the unique capabilities of Cardiff's Teleform, a formsbased system that converts incoming fax images to database information.

(For those who may wonder what all this foofarah is about, remember that a fax transmission is a graphics image, similar to that produced by a copying machine. OCR software must be used by the fax receiver to convert the blackand-white characters of the image into text usable by the computer for word processing, spreadsheets, etc.)

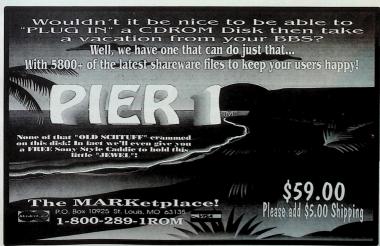
Typically, reviews of such products play a numbers game: Comparing percentages of accuracy in actual recognition of the graphic-image text characters. The products in this marketplace are wont to promise accuracy of "up to 99%" - in fact, every one of the above products met or exceeded that figure, under the right conditions. Remember, however, that "99%" means the potential of one error character in every 100 characters: and a page of correspondence well may contain 1,000 characters.

UNDER THE RIGHT CONDITIONS! Never has the time-honored "GIGO" (garbage in, garbage out) computer-age acronym been so appropriate. As example, none of the above did even a reasonable job of converting the text from a copier copy of a triple-column magazine page that also contained a picture, a graphic and a boxed ad.

On the other hand, all did well when the same magazine columns were scanned



(by Logitech's ScanMan 256) as individual columns, converted to the appropriate input file format, and fed to the OCR software ... a process almost as timeconsuming as simple fast-typist retyping of the text from the magazine. With clipboard in hand, I tried to logically, methodically, statistically compare the output of these various OCR packages. I could throw a lot of numbers at you - but the sheer fact is.



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Utilizing its X.25 packet-switched network, the ADP/Autonet Division can help a sysop become a nationwide, or even international, business practically overnight. Autonet provides the PDN (or VAN) needed to transmit data for the BBS. It literally puts ADP's network to work for the sysop.

The X.25 protocol, in addition to being economical, also offers superior error-checking capabilities and ensures error-free transmission.

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COMPUTER SENTINEL

### OCR PRODUCTS

### BitFax/OCR for Windows 2.05

Bit Software 47987 Fremont Blvd. Fremont, CA 94538 510-490-2928 510-490-9490 (fax) MSRP - \$129

### FAXability Plus/OCR 1.0

Intel Corp. 5200 N.E. Elam Young Parkway Hillsboro, OR 97124 803-629-7354 503-629-7227 (fax) MSRP - \$249

### WinFax Pro 3.0

Delrina Technology 800-268-6082 or 416-441-0774 416-441-0774 (fax) MSRP - \$129

### FaxGrabber

Calera Recognition Systems 475 Potrero Avenue Sunnyvale, CA 94086 408-720-8300 408-720-1330 (fax) MSRP - \$149

### Perceive Personal for Windows 2.0

OCRON, Inc. 3350 Scott Blvd. Santa Clara, CA 95054 408-980-8900 408-980-5100 (fax) MSRP - \$179

### Teleform 2.0

Cardiff Software 531 Stevens Ave. Solana Beach, CA 92075 619-259-6450 619-259-6450 (fax) MSRP - \$995

don't let ANY one tell you they can be analyzed in such a fashion. The problem is, too many variables.

As example, I fed a 14-page computergenerated fax using common Arial (from Word for Windows 2.0) to Winfax Pro's OCR mode. It scored close to 99%. Then, I fed the same file — with Times Roman as the font — through the same procedure, and the output ASCII text was pure gibberish. Yet, Perceive Personal gobbled in the same Times Roman file and the output would have been usable with only short editing. So, then I fed the same file to BitFax/OCR, with similar results — except for one classic omission: Every sentence-ending period was lost!

From WordPerfect for Windows, I sent a fax of a help file — Courier font—to BitFax/OCR, and it found all the periods; but didn't recognize "b", "y" or scattered other characters. From a distant city, a friend faxed me a 10-page report from WordPerfect for DOS, via Intel's DOS SatisFAXtion software. My name was in the report, several times, always as "Thrm Frulks" —along with inconsistent other missing characters.

Consistently, NONE of the products did a good job of handling margins. Paragraphs with the first word indented would confuse the "recognition" process, leaving a jumble of scattered words across the output page. WinFax Pro 3.0 occasionally told me "an error had occurred" referring me to the manual with NO clue as to WHAT error occurred. (All of the products are heavy RAM users; my test machine, a 386DX/33, had 8MB of RAM.) The same file, fed to Perceive Personal, came through with "w" recognized as "vil" and "y" consistently missed.

Sampling all the programs also revealed a welter of file formats to deal with. Although each would accept PCX files, none of them receive fax transmissions directly in a PCX format—there's always a conversion step. WinFax likes only its own files, FXR and FXS; FAXability wants DCX files, but you must "save" SatisFAXtion's RCV files into the DCX format. Perceive Personal (targeted more at scanner users) likes TIFF files. Only FaxGrabber would handle PCX, DCX, and TIF.

Etc., ad infinitum.

Teleform stands unique in this group, in that it doesn't deal directly with text, and it expects that its input has

been fax machine generated. In practice, the user fills out a plain-paper form of checkboxes and sends it to a Teleform-equipped receiving computer. The data is read from the boxes, and inserted directly into a database. This is a slick business application, although not text-based in the usual sense. My testing produced superbresults — but it's not a product for OCRing a faxed letter.

OK, Thom, let's try to formulate some recommendations from all this. Here they are.

1. Take those "up to 99%" promises for just what they are; and keep in mind that the remaining 15% means one character wrong out of 100. That means you might have read 60 or so errors up to this point, in this short article. Editing the output is a must; and the potential of using OCR to read numbers reliably is downright scary.

2. Computer-to-computer fax transmissions (avoiding the copying phase of a fax machine) can't be expected to dramatically improve performance, as I had hoped. The improvement was only slight, and some very common scalable fonts produced mishmash output. Even under the most controlled conditions, OCR success mysteriously varies.

3. The most versatile performer is FaxGrabber, which many users may have received as part of a bundle with an earlier version of WinFax Pro. If your OCR plans involve scanning, then opt for Perceive Personal — easy to use, easy to set up, and provides the bestruntime display of the actual OCR process. However, the Caere AnyFax module in BitFax/OCR appears to be the fastest of the group; in fact, BitFax/OCR is a solid performer as a fax handler, and supports the CAS standard of SatisfAXtion modems.

4. If you've read to here, you can understand why I suggest you may wish to wait for the next generation of such software. This marketplace is really not quite ready for primetime.

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computer consultant, founding host of Computing Success! radio show, and columnist. Foulks also wrote his own Message Hub BBS software package and operates the <BI>Cache la Byte Hub BBS<MI> at <BI>(719)528-8545<MI>. - Ed-D>]

# INDYCAR

### DIGITAL IMAGING AND MARLBORO RACING NEWS

By Jim Thompson Western News Service

Digital Imaging offers a news promise for the future of on-line computer systems. Digital cameras and scanners are opening the door to a brave new world of high quality photographic images for both the professional and the hobbyist.

Professional Digital cameras offer the ability to instantly capture 24-bit, 1524x1012-pixel resolution images. High-end scanners can deliver 4,000 DPI quality from color negatives or transparencies. Once captured, the images are immediately ready for transmitting anywhere in the world.

Ofcourse, it will be sometime before the cost of most of this equipment gets down to a point where it is available to the masses. But the technology is available and in use today. Major news gathering organizations around the world are rapidly converting their photographic departments to all-electronic image processing centers.

The L.A. Times, for example, started assembling their electronic darkroom in 1986. Terry Schwadron, assistant managing editor for graphics spearheaded what the Times calls 'the Editor Color Project." According to Schwadron, the goal is to "remove the walls between the photo, art and prepress departments." Electronic cameras and scanners are making this a reality.

The day is quickly approaching when film, at least in the fast-paced world of the photojournalist, will be nothing more than a curiosity of the past. But, there are still many problems that must be overcome. The format fight is raging

and what we have is a technology in search of a standard.

As managing editor of Western News Service and Sysop of Marlboro Racing News, I have been intensely occupied with creating a BBS system for the exchange and display of high-quality electronic images.

As the Official IndyCar News Service. Marlboro Racing News provides news coverage and statistics on IndyCarracing. It is open only to journalists, major news organizations, Indy Car teams and sponsors. Currently, more than 400 journalists rely on this system for immediate and accurate information about the world of Indy Car racing. We are concerned not only with Marlboro Racing Team Penske drivers, Emerson Fittipaldi and Paul Tracy, but with all teams, races and news concerning the IndyCar series. But information is not always enough. To capture all the drama and excitement of this or any sporting event, newspapers need full-color, action photos.

The hand writing was definitely on the wall. Since we began operation two years ago, it was clear that we needed to offer color photographs along with the editorial material. It certainly didn't take a genius to realize that we needed to get into an electronic photo system right away. Iam happy to report that journalists tapping into Marlboro Racing News will have access to full color photographs during the 1993 IndyCar season. This system is now in the testing stage and will be officially unveiled in time for the 77th running of the Indianapolis 500.

For the first time anywhere, journalists can see the pictures that will be used to illustrate their stories, on their own computers, before their newspaper or magazine is even printed. For the first time, newspapers will be able to receive a full-color photo, ready for publication even before the race has finished.



Jim Thompson - Photo taken with Kodak DC3 Camera . Image acquired by Photoshop running on Mac and transferred by modem to PC running Photostyler.

In this, and succeeding articles, I will pass along what I have learned about capturing, distributing and displaying photos on-line. I will also discuss solutions I found to some very vexing problems including image exchange between PCs and MACs, interfacing with Associated Press proprietary systems and displaying the images on-line.

This is a world of land mines and not for the feint of heart. I spent months researching the current equipment on the market. Time and again, just when I thought I had all the answers, a new wrinkle developed. Usually, the problem was sales staff, company representatives or technical personnel who simply did not know the capabilities or the limitations of their equipment.

In some cases, it was both shocking and disappointing. When an official company brochure says one thing and the technical staff says another, one quickly begins to question whether any of this equipment will ever work. It is especially disheartening when you are staring at a bill that is pushing the \$50,000 mark! Yes, it will work, but one has to be extremely careful.

One of the problems is that so much varying technical expertise is required. I found people who were absolute experts with Macintosh computers, but had never touched a PC. Some knew all about the Associated Press system, but had no idea about how to connect with anything else. In some cases, technical representatives told me that their equipment was capable of connecting with other system, but when confronted with explicit questions about how to do this, finally admitted that they had no idea.

So, beware all ye who wish to journey to the land of the digital image, for it is fraught with danger. It requires a thorough knowledge of what you want to accomplish, the brass to ask plenty of questions and nerves of steal.

But let's take it a step at a time. Before you can transmit an image, you have to first capture it. In this first article of the series, I'll look at the major electronic cameras and scanners designed for the professional.

As I said earlier, it didn't take a genius to realize that digital imaging was the wave of the future. What it does take is money - lots of it.

Even in the world of professional photographers, the price tags will make anyone shutter. The high-end cameras cost more than \$25,000 and professional film scanners will put a \$10,000 dent in your bank account. Talk about sticker shock!

There are low-end models available. The Zapshot from Cannon and Logitech's Fotoman sell for under \$1,000. The results from these systems, however, are more like still frames from a cheap video camera - not even close to what is acceptable to a newspaper.

When it comes to electronic cameras for professional use, there are only two choices - Kodak or Sony.

### KODAK DCS (Digital Camera System)

Kodak makes two lines of Digital Cameras - the Professional DCS and the more portable DCS 200.

The professional DCS has six variations. The top-of-the line is the Kodak DC3/32. It provides 32 megabytes of memory and the ability to capture full color images. For the photojournalist. this the only unit of the professional line that deserves serious consideration

The Kodak DC3 consists of a Nikon F3 camera cabled to a Digital Storage Unit (DSU) that is carried over the shoulder. The DSU is VERY bulky with a weight of about 12 pounds. The system also includes a Kodak camera back that replaces the standard F3 back and a Kodak camera winder.

The DSU is essentially a portable computer that captures and processes the images and a built-in screen for viewing. It contains a 200-megabyte Winchester drive which allows for storing up to 600 compressed images. Typically, the uncompressed images are about 5.5 megabytes in size - definitely not something you can use with that old AT with a 20megabyte drive.

The built-in screen allows for immediate viewing of the image. Unfortunately, it is limited to black and white and is only about four inches square. Although small. theimageisclear and crisp providing you have the proper lighting conditions. I found it extremely difficult to see the image in bright sunlight. When working outdoors, choosing an image on the screen was little more than guess work.

The 32 megabytes of memory and winder attached to the camera body make it possible to capture sequences of 24 photos at a rate of 2.5 images per second. Although the DSU is not light, the weight is on the photographer's shoulder. It's also rugged. You could drive nails into the wall with this baby and not lose a shot. The original model was designed so it could be dropped from an airplane. The newer model is not as rugged, but it is also not as heavy.

Connections to the DSU are available through a SCSI 25-pin, female subminiature D connector with standard pin assignments for Macintosh II computers. The unit is shipped with drivers for PhotoShop imaging software for the MAC and PhotoStyler software for the PC. Sending an image from the DSC directly (via attached cable) to a MAC or PC (equipped with the proper SCSI controller card) was no problem. Sending an image via modem was another story.

The DC3 has an RS-232 serial port and built-in DIT protocol which allegedly allows for connecting to an Associated Press Picture Desk by Leaf Systems. Inc. A technical representative for Kodak told me that at the time of this writing.



Kodak DC3

the DC3 could not transmit to an AP Picture Desk. According to him, they are waiting for final technical information from the Associated Press and hoping to make in work in the "near future."

Company literature also indicates that the DC3 can connect to a Macintosh via modem. Although there is no mention of it, I made the assumption that a modem connection to a PC was also possible. How wrong I was.

Kodak's technical staff says a connection to a MAC is possible but only if the MAC is running Kodak's proprietary communication software at the time the connection is made. This software is not available for the PC which means a PC connection via modem is not possible.

After receiving a photo from the DC3, the software un-compresses the image and transform it into a format readable by Adobe PhotoShop. This is workable, but it means that you wind-up with a closed system. For Marlboro Racing News, the requirement was for a system with the widest possible connectivity.

The electronic back looks like a roll of film, the back contains a 1280x1012-pixel resolution CCD array for capturing the image. With this camera and the smaller DCS 200, the camera doesn't even know that the electronics array is attached. This has pluses and minuses.

On the plus side, the system uses exposure indexes equivalent to film speeds of ISO 100-1600. On the minus side, the CCD array is smaller than a full 35mm frame (21mm x 16mm or approximately two-thirds the length and width of a 35mm frame). This means you can't use the entire viewfinder. A replacement viewfinder, however. makes the transiton easy.

Another result is that any attached lens will have a focal length 2.6 times longer than normal. A 28-mm lens gives the same field of view as about a 70-mm lens. This is great for long distance shooting since the shorter focal length lenses are much smaller and lighter. The disadvantage comes if you need wide-angle shots.

United Press International (UPI) used the Kodak system to transmit instant photos around the world during the recent Presidential Inauguration.

### KODAK DCS 200ci

The DCS 200 is the newest of Kodak's digital camera and can be considered the little brother to the DC3. It's built around the Nikon 8008. It's much smaller and considerably cheaper than



### The Kodak DCS 200

the DC3. The trade off is that it is quite a bit slower and holds fewer pictures. With a sticker price of just under \$10,000, the DCS 200 has a hard drive attached to the bottom of the camera. Like the DC3, the camera back contains a CCD array and processing unit. The hard drive takes about three seconds to capture and transfer an image from the CCD to the drive. Although much lighter than its big brother, the weight is on the hands, not the shoulder, making it somewhat harder to handle in tight situations.

After taking a picture, there is a noticeable delay while the camera records the image on the disk. To view a captured image, the camera must be attached to a computer. A SCSI cable allows for a connection to a Macintosh or a PC with a Future Domaine 1660 SCSI adapter card. Included software allows you to transfer images directly into Adobe PhotoShop on the MAC or Aldus PhotoStyler on the PC.

The DCS 200 uses exposure indexes equivalent to film speeds of ISO 100-400 for black-and-white and 50-200 for color. It delivers resolution of up to 1012x1525-pixels.



Taken with Kodak DCS 200



Sony Promavica

Image transfer is easy whether you are using a MAC or a PC. In either case, the camera sends a series of thumbnail views to the imaging software. After you select a image, it is imported and expanded in the desired format. Like the DC3, the image size is around five megabytes.

Like the DC3, the DC 200 uses a replacement viewfinder so you can't use Nikon's acclaimed "matrix metering" mode. The attached hard dive holds 50 pictures. An additional drive can be easily attached to the camera for more picture storage. The additional drive weights only about 2 pounds and stores another 50 pictures.

### SONY PROMAVICA MVC-7000

The Sony MVC-7000 is actually not a Digital Camera - it is really an electronic or still video camera. Like the Kodak cameras, it does capture the image on CCD elements. The difference is that the captured image is not stored in a digital format but as an analog still video image on a floppy disk (special Mayipak Hi-band disks). Up to 25 images can be stored on a single floppy.

Sony makes several versions of this camera. What makes this one special, and the only one that could be considered for professional use, is that it uses three separate CCD elements. These elements capture red, green and blue information for each pixel separately. Sony claims that this method of capture provides better color over systems, like Kodak, that use an RGB filter over a single CCD array.

system, image resolution is dependent on the quality of the monitor and is measured in lines. For example, a portable camcorder or VCR playing through your TV set at home normally delivers about 200lines of video resolution. Even with the professional quality equipment, resolution is limited to the NTSC standard of 525 lines.

Since this is basically a video

The MVC-7000 can capture and payback images at more than 500 lines of resolution. Translating this into computer term means you can get an image of up to 768x493-pixel resolution. This quality, however, is dependent on connecting to a high-quality video-capture device. The camera's built-in playback device allows for instant viewing if you have a monitor nearby.

Although this quality is considerably lower than that of the Kodak system, it is good enough in some cases. USA Today and the Toronto Star use the ProMayica in some deadline situations

All the parts on the MVC-7000, including lenses, are completely proprietary. There are adapters for some Nikon and Canon lenses but you certainly cannot get the flexibility of the full range of Nikon lenses as you can with the Kodak system. The camera is more like a cross between a video camera and a film camera than a conventional 35mm

Since the imaging area of the CCD chips is smaller than that of 35mm film, the focal length of attached lenses is 5.3 times higher than with a conventional camera. A 75mm lense would have the equivalent field of view of a 387mm lens mounted on a 35mm camera. This factor, coupled with the weight, about six lbs. with a Sony zoom lens attached, makes the MCV-7000 a unlikely candidate for most hand-held shooting, especially if slow exposures are required.

The camera itself has a list price of \$7,500. The lenses are not cheap. An



Marlboro Racing Team Penske Car - Laguna Seca Raceway. Sony Promavica Image transferred from camera to Mac to PC.

8-to-48mm lens sells for about \$1,500. A 7.8-to-78-mm will set you back more than \$4,000. You will also need a monitor to display the pictures, a computer or a special playback unit (\$9,000) and software to capture and manipulate the images. A ten-pack of diskettes will cost you \$105.

If you are looking for a lower priced solution to still video, Sony offers a lower-resolution, single-CCD MVC-2000 priced at just under \$4,000.

Because it uses diskettes, there is no problem with the storage of images. The diskettes can be placed in the playback unit for continuous viewing (the image can be display in rotation similar to a slide projector) or for manipulation (adjustment of contrast, brightness or color enhancement). The images can also be transferred from the playback unit to a computer for more sophisticated manipulation and enhancement.

### KODAK VS. SONY

Because of the use of a three CCD array, the Sony system delivers better color saturation than the Kodak cameras. The single chip of the Kodak also produces a slightly mottled effect on large areas of the same color. Because the Kodak produces images that are digital as opposed to the video images of the Sony, the color definition is much sharper. Also, the Sony system tends to produce color bleed especially when two contrasting colors (red and white, for example) are next to one another.

For the professional photojournalist working on deadline, Kodak appears to be the best choice. Although there were compromises involved, we decided that the DCS 200 was the best unit for Marlboro Racing News. Although somewhat slow (1 frame every three seconds) it does produce a full digital image that is easy to download to a MAC or PC. It also offers the advantage of being light and easy to handle.

The DCS 200 is the most cost effective, but not dramatically. After adding all the necessary support equipment, the cost of all the units is about the same. The Kodak DC3 costs about \$26,000 but includes everything you need to capture and transmit the image from the field. Of course, this assumes that you have a Macintosh running Kodak's software package in the office where the images are to be sent.



1993 Mariboro Racing Team Penske car. Photo taken with conventional film camera on transparency film and scanned with Nikon 3510 AF scanner as a TIF image. TIF image (7.7 megabytes in size) was compressed with Jpeg compression by Adobe Photoshop running on a Mac quadra 950 to 240 KB size.

### CONTACTS

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Sony Corp. of America Electronic Photography and Publishing 3 Paragon Drive Montvale, NJ 07645 (201) 368-9272 Fax: (201) 358-4942

Nikon Electronic Imaging 1300 Walt Whitman Road Melville, NY 11747-3064 (800) 52-NIKON (516) 547-4355

**T/One, Inc.** 180 Dublin Court Petaluma, CA 94952 (707) 778-9282

Associated Press Technology Marketing 50 Rockefeller Plaza New York, NY 10020 (212) 621-1500

Leaf Systems, Inc. 250 Turnpike Road Southboro, MA 01772 (508) 460-8300

Adobe Systems, Inc. 1585 Charleston Road Mountain View, CA 94042 (415) 961-4400

Aldus Corp. 411 First Avenue South Suite 200 Seattle, WA 98104 (206) 343-3277

By the time you add at least one lens, a playback unit, a monitor, and various cables to the Sony MVC-7000, the overall price is up to more than \$20,000. If you want to do any compression or manipulation before transmitting the images, you will also need to add an addi-

tional \$4,000 to \$5,000 for a computer system.

The actual price of the Kodak DCS 200ci is up around \$19,000 after you add a computer, modem, software and various cables.

### **ELECTRONIC CAMERAS** VS. SCANNERS

Not all newspapers have opted to use electronic cameras for photo transmission. In fact, most are using standard film cameras and then scanning the negatives into a computer. This process has several advantages.

It allows photographers to use equipment with which they are familiar. Most photojournalists have put together a very impressive collection of cameras. lenses and attachments that will get them through any situation. After spending years to build up this stock of equipment, most are very reluctant to make a change.

Also, the vast majority of photojournalists are independents and not actually on the staff of the news organizations for which they work. Spending \$10,000-\$20,000 on new equipment is simply not a possibility for most.

Scanning negatives also produces a much higher resolution electronic image. Typically, a scanned image can vield an electronic photo that has a dpi (dots-per-inch) of 2500-4000. This means better color and an image that can be enlarged to full page without significant loss

But the story is not all good news. There are trade-offs. The main disadvantage is time. Scanning negatives can take anywhere from five minutes to 20 minutes, depending on the scanner being used and the resolution desired. Add to this the time involved in processing the film and then to import it into an editing program and you have a significant time delay from taking the picture to actually transmitting it.

Typically, it takes 50 minutes to one hour to develop the film and another 10 minutes to scan the negative, or a total of one hour before you are ready to import the photo into a computer and transmit it

A high quality, professional scanner costs about \$9,000. The scanner can't even be used unless it is linked to a computer which will set you back anywhere from \$4,000 to \$6,000. This is certainly not what could be considered a cheap solution. With one exception, professional scanners are also anything but portable. This is not something you can carry in your camera bag.

But, everything has its place. A high quality scanner is definitely one piece of equipment that is a must for any news room involved in electronic imaging. Any descent sized newspaper has an extensive photo morgue containing photos that could not be duplicated. As modern papers move into electronic imaging, these photos need to be digitized, if the negatives are available, the only way to do this is by scanning.

Several scanners are available to the professional. Among them two from Nikon, one from Kodak and a complete system, including CPU, monitor, modem and scanner from Leaf Systems, Inc.

### NIKON LS-3510 AF

The Nikon scanner works like most any other professional scanner. Basically, light is beamed through the film and is picked up by a sensor on the other side. A unique electric signal is produced according to the amount of light received. The amount of light is regulated by the density of the film. The signal is output by the scanner in digital code which describes each individual scan segment, or pixel, which makes up a completed digital image.

In the Nikon scanner, the light source and reflector screen are fixed. The film is moved between the two. Color images are scanned in three passes, once for each of the primary colors of light (RGB). Black and white film requires only a single pass. The resulting scan is of very high resolution - 3.175 dpi. This is better than most drum scanners which are the standard by which all others are measured. Drum scanners typically have a resolution of 2,000 dpi.

Using 12-bit color differentiation, you get up to 36 bits of color information for each pixel (12 bits for each primary color). What it means is that you will have higher resolution and more color information that most systems can even handle, so high quality imaging is no problem.

The LS-3510 couldn't be easier to use. All you need to do is connect the unit to a MAC via a SCSI cable or PC via a GPIB interface. The actual scanning operation is controlled through the photo-editing software running on the computer. The scanner comes bundled with your choice of PhotoStyler for the PC. Aldus PhotoShop or Fractal ColorStudio for the MAC. The auto focus feature (the "AF" in LS 3510 AF) makes the whole nrocess nainless and easy.

According to Nikon, it takes approximately 25 seconds for a prescan. The scan itself takes approximately 30 seconds per color for an 2048x1365 image in high speed mode. If you have high volume, there is an optional auto feeder available which scans 300 slides unattended

The unit is 11.3(W) x 14.41(D) x 5.86(H) inches and weighs 13.2 lbs.

The Nikon scanner is an excellent choice for any professional application and is used by many of the major news organizations

### KODAK 35mm RAPID FILM SCANNER

The Kodak scanner works basically on the same principleas the Nikon. It has automatic color balance and auto focus. Although it does notappear to be as rugged as teh Nikon (it has an all plastic exterior caseas opposed to the mostly metal case of the Nikon) it seems to be very substantial. The photo editor fo the Denver Post says in test they conducted the Kodak was able to take all teh abuse they could dish-out without any problems. At nearly 22 lbs., it is also considerably heavier than the Nikon. Its resolution of 1312 X 1024 (approx. 2000 dpi) is also lower than that of the Nikon.

On the plus side, the Kodak scanner is much faster than the Nikon. Kodak There aren't many things wiser than a Night Owl...

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claims with a Macintosh II and using its proprietary compression file format, it will produce full color compressed images in just 18 seconds. Other file formats supported include Jpeg/DCT, PICT, TIFF or Planar RGB.

The Kodak scanner includes proprietary image-compression software allowing for storage of 300 images on an 80 megabyte hard drive (compression ratio of 15:1). A built-in optical zoom feature allows for image sizing and previewing before doing a full resolution scan. To use it you will need a Macintosh II with at least 5MB or RAM. It is compatible with Adobe PhotoShop, Letraset ColorStudio and other high-end imageediting software.

### **NIKON COOLSCAN LS-10**

The Nikon Coolscan represents a significant break-through in portable scanner technology. Instead of a large, luggable unit, like the Nikon LS-3510 AF or the Kodak Rapid Film Scanner, the LS-10 fits into a size of a 1/2 height. disk drive on a PC or MAC. The Coolscan gets it name from the ultra-low power consumption and it low cost, and low heat, light emitting diode (LED) scanning technology. This low power consumption and low heat allows the scanner to operate without problems inside a computer and not overheat.

The LS-10 scans negatives and transparencies in color or black-and-white and captures 24-bit images with a maximum resolution of 2700 dpi. It scans information in a "multi-scan" one-pass mode. Instead of scanning an image three times (once for each color separation - RGB) the LS-10 scans the same line three times in succession so you get all the necessary data in a single pass.

According to Nikon, using an LED for scanning is more reliable than other light-source technologies. The LED strobe illumination system provides the fastest response time (on/off cycles). Also, there are no filaments, tubes or gas and the image is capture in one pass instead of three. With the Coolscan, it takes approximately five minutes for a six to eight megabyte image scan.

The LS-10, however, does not provide auto-focus or an auto-feed option like the LS-3510 AF. I cannot see this scanner being used for heavy usage, but for field use, or even for limited home or office use, this seems to be the one to

The Coolscan is available in two models. The internal version (which mounts inside a desktop computer) has a retail cost of \$2,195. The external version which weighs 4.2 lbs. is \$2,415.

### ASSOCIATED PRESS LEAF TRANSMITTERS

With the clout of the Associated Press. the AP transmitters, manufactured for the news agency by Leaf Systems, Inc., have become the de-facto standard for the news industry. The Leaf system delivers higher resolution than others, but that is not the reason for its popularity. The main reason is that it is a closed system. With few exceptions, a Leaf system can only talk to another Leaf system. The portable Leafax can only send to a LeafDesk Since AP has standardized on Leaf for all its transmissions, a major newspaper needs a Leaf system. Recently, AP has softened its rigid approach to compatibility and made interfaces available for the Macintosh.

For field use, Leaf makes the Leafax 35 and the Leafax IIId. The Leafax 35 is smaller and lighter but produces a lower quality photo than the Leafax IIId. Both include everything you need to scan and transmit an image in a portable case.

With both units, the process involved is the same. A negative or 35mm slide is scanned, digitized, with the built-in scanner, and then transmitted with the builtin modem.

With a maximum scanning resolution of 4,000 dpi (6000x6000 resolution over 1.5x1.5 inch area of a negative) the Leafax IIId allows for the highest possible scans of any portable unit. Basic image manipulation (image cropping, toning, contrast and brightness balance) can be done with image viewing on a 5.6 inch LCD color screen (610 x 48- resolution).

It compresses the images with Jpeg and allows for background transmission during the scanning process. It also transmits in both digital format (using DIT 3.2.Jpeg compression) or analog (using AP AM/FM 144 LPM, CCITT 60 and 120 AM, LPM and UPI AM protocols). Images can be transmitted at speeds of up to 19.2k. Approximately 200 photos can be stored on the internal hard disk. The complete unit, in a single case, weighs 28

The cost is not for the feint of heart, with a price tag of approximately \$28,000. But that's not all. Since the unit uses proprietary components and software, you will also need to purchase a service contract and pay for regular program upgrades.

The Leafax 35 is smaller but provides a lower quality scan. The maximum resolution is 3000x3000 over 1.5 x 1 inch area of a negative with a dynamic range of only 12-bit color as opposed to 16-bit on the Leaf IIId. It also will transmit only in analog mode and has no internal storage. The cost is approximately \$20,000.

In order to transmit digital images, users of the Leafax 35 need to purchase the Leaf Digital Compander. This unit (weight: seven lbs.) also compresses the images before transmission via the built-in Trailblazer modem. Buying the compander will add another \$10,000 to the cost of the Leafax transmitter/scanner package. Again, you will need to plan on paying for an annual service contract and software upgrades.

The AP Leaf system does deliver the highest quality of any of the portable units, but only at a substantial cost. It bothers me that the units are specifically designed to keep out any form of competition. I made several calls to Leaf System, Inc. and several visits to the Associated Press, both in Los Angeles and to their headquarters in New York. Although the people I spoke with were always extremely polite and friendly, they were unable (or perhaps, unwilling) to give me any usable technical information about their products and how one could connect to

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# BOARDWATCH MAGAZINE



# 1993 READER'S CHOICE BBS CONTEST

Boardwarch Magazine is sponsoring a contest to find the 100 most popular bulletin board systems in North America — and the ONE BBS most popular among callers. The contest will run from January 1, 1993 through July 1, 1993. Winners will be amounced at the Online Networking Exposition and BBS Convention (ONE BBSCON) bled at the Envandance Hotel in Colorado Springs Colorado, August 12–53, 1993. The Boardwarch 100 list with published in subsequent issues of Placetwisch Magazine and distributed in electronic form published in subsequent issues of Placetwisch Magazine and distributed in electronic form

#### PRIZES FOR BULLETIN BOARD OPERATORS

IST PRIZE. The BBS system receiving the largest number of valid ballots will be named the most popular BBS. A troply will be awarded to the top BBS at the Collane Networking Exposition and BBS Cenvrention (ONE BBSCON) held August 26-29h, 1993, at the Broadmoor Hotel in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Additionally, the winning BBS will receive air fare, hotel accommodations and registration at ONE BBSCON for the primary BBS operator as the guest of Boordwich Magazare. Additionally, the system will thosy about their system and a fire full-page black and while advertisement in Boardwatch Magazarie Addition.

TOP TEN: The ten most popular bulletin boards selected by the voters will each receive an award trophy at on their system in Boardwatch Magazine, inclusion in a special top ten BBS listing in the magazine, and a free quarter-page black and white advertisement in three successive issues. Additionally, they will be listed in the Boardwatch 100 BBS list.

TOP ONE HUNDRED: The 100 bulletin boards receiving the most votes will each be listed in the Boardwatch 100 readers choice BBS list. This list will be published in Boardwatch Magazine and freely distributed electronically on thousands of bulletin boards world-wide.

IN CASE OF TIE. Positions for which an identical number of votes are received will be letermined by point value established by the dast stamp assigned to each received ballot. Time Date stamp values are accumulated for all votes and a cumulative score assigned scatch BBS based on date of receipt of ballots. Votes receive a date stamp value between 1 and 180 based on the day of the contest the vote is received. System with lowest (earliest) cumulative date stamp score will present in event of tie.

#### PRIZES FOR VOTERS

All valid bablos submitted ovolers will be entered in a random sweepstakes drawing. As of the opening date of this contest, prices include two U.S. Robbies Courier Dual Standard 16.8.K Moderms, two Hayes CPTIMA. 14400 + FAX. 144 moderms, and two ZyAEL U-1496 of the moderms - and more are on the way. A minimum of six valid bablos will be selected from all entries and each will receive a free modern - from the most popular modern manufacturers in the world.

#### RULES FOR CALLERS

Each voter can vote once, for a single bulletin board system. Each ballot must be fully completed, and individually mailed by each voter. We will verify ballots as necessary. There are three ways to vote:

 Complete this ballot and mail to: BOARDWATCH MAGAZINE, READERS CHOICE BBS CONTEST, 5970 South Vivian Street, Littleton, CO 80127

2. Complete this ballot and FAX to (303)973-3731.

 Or, dial the Boardwatch BBS at (303)973-4222 and complete the online ballot provided on the main menu.

Balloting closes at 23:59:59 on June 30, 1993. Last year it ended at midnight on July 1 and caused all manner of grief and confusion so we're cutting a second off of this year's contest.

This contest is not limited to Boardwatch Magazine subscribers, and no purchase of anything is required to participate in this contest. Reasonable facsimile's of this ballot are acceptable, so lone as all specified information is included.

We held this contest during 1992 and it generated 11,152 votes by the close of balloting for some 1250 different bulletin boards. The TOP system received about 450 votes. Your individual vote can have a tremendous impact on the outcome of this contest. Further, the odds of winning a modern in last years contest, were 1 in 1394. You won't get those odds in the lottery.

TITLE OF BBS YOU VOTE F	OR AS THE BEST:			
PRIMARY BBS ACCESS TE	LEPHONE NUMBER:			
VOTER NAME:		VOICE PHONE NUMBER:		
STREET ADDRESS:				
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP CODE:	COUNTRY:	
PRIMARY COMMUNICATI	ONS SOFTWARE YOU USE:			
PRIMARY MODEM MANU	FACTURER AND MODEL:			
HIGHEST SPEED YOUR MO	ODEM SUPPORTS:   1200bps	☐ 2400bps ☐ 9600bps	s 🗆 14400bps 🗆 19200bps	
DO YOU USE MS WINDOW	'S (Y/N): DO YOU HAVE A S	ECOND TELEPHONE LINE FO	OR USE WITH YOUR MODEM (Y/N):	
TOTAL CALLS YOU MAKE	TO BBS PER MONTH: W	HEN DID YOU MAKE YOUR I	FIRST BBS CALL (MM/YY):	
AGE: SEX (M/F): _	PROFESSION:			
CICNATUDE.			DATE:	

them with another system. Even inquiries made through dealers did not turn up any information.

They seem to have gone to great lengths to select the oddest type of protocols (at least as far as normal communcations programs and modems are concerned) they could find and still call them a CCITT "standard." AP and Leaf have also made it extremely difficult, if not in some cases impossible, for any other type of equipment to interface with their units. Even their own equipment is limited when it comes to connectivity. A Leafax, for example can only communicate with an AP Leaf Picture Desk. This is basically a desktop computer bundled with image manipulation software and a Telebit modem. With all the necessary equipment, it will cost an additional \$30,000.

Still, the AP system is the most widely used. The main reason is that, for now, it is the most practical solution for any newspaper that is a part of the Associated Press group - and that is just about every major newspaper in the U.S. The Leaf equipment is of extremely high quality and remarkably reliable. They understand the needs of the press and the problems encountered while working in far-flung locations around the world.

#### PHOENIX PORTABLE TRANSMITTER

The most serious competition to the AP Leaf system comes from a company called T/One. Inc. makers of the Phoenix Portable Transmitter. Their system, which is compatible with the AP Leafax and Leaf Picture Desk is built around a lunch-box PC running Windows and a Nikon LS-2510AF scanner. Although heavier and bulkier than the Leafax system, the Phoenix system offers a much bigger and clear screen (10.4 inch color TFT flat panel display), a faster CPU and an operating system that is compatible with the AP system and the rest of the world. The company was started and is run by former Associated Press employees, so they fully understand the workings of the competition.

Although their system has advantages over that offered by Leaf, price is not one. The Phoenix Portable Transmitter will set you back \$26,000. The big plus is that they offer free software upgrades for as long as you own the equipment.

#### MAKING THE DECISION

So, after months of evaluating and testing, what equipment did we finally decide on for Marlboro Racing News?

After much debate, we decided on the Kodak DC 200ci, color electronic camera. It provides us with the widest range of possibilities with the highest quality currently available for portable digital cameras. Although it requires a computer to acquire and transmit the image, the camera itself is light and easy for the photographer to handle in most situations. The one problem may be with the time delay between capturing images, but this is something that can only be fully assessed during use in actual field conditions over a period of time

Although scanning does produce a much higher quality, the camera became the clear choice because of our need to meet the deadlines for major newspapers across the US and overseas.

Typically, a race ends at approximately 3:00pm on a Sunday. Most newspapers put their Monday edition to bed around 6:00pm Sunday evening. This only allows a few hours following the race for the processing and transmission of photos. The problems are compounded when you have a race on the West Coast, like the Long Beach Grand Prix, and want to make the deadline for a New York, or East Coast, newspaper.

In the past, the only practical way to meet these deadlines was to transmit a black-and-white photo via the old drum transmitters. These transmitters can also send color separations, but the process is very slow and requires time consuming work by the printer. If the separations are not in exact registration on the press, the result is a photo that looks out of focus

The goal of Marlboro Racing News is to offer high quality, color photos and still be within the deadlines of most newspapers. The digital camera has made this a possibility for the first time ever.

If there is one thing I have learned in more than 20 years as a journalist, is that when you are working in the field. things can and do go wrong. Murphy's Law certainly applies here. So, we needed a back-up system in the event our first line of defense failed.

The answer was the Nikon Coolscan LS-10. It's compact size, relatively low price, and high quality gave us the backup we needed. In addition, to shooting

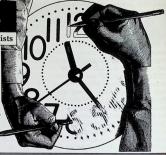


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#### **Attention All Programmers**

While our main business is the sales and support of TBBS/TDBS systems we find we have all the necessary software in place to market and support any software, regardless of the market it is targeted to. If you have an MS-DOS based software package you would like to market, please give us a call. We know we can help you increase your income, we've been doing it for our associated TBBS/TDBS programmers for years! If you have a "user supported" software package and feel it can do better commercially we would like the opportunity to help you be successful. For more information just call!

#### Call Today For More Information

If there's anything we can do to help you make better use of any communications tool, please ask. If you're not sure if you really have a need for a system and want to know more, please ask. We're here to help in any way we can. We hope you'll give us the opportunity to help. If you need information on oprices or just need information on communications, don't hesitate to ask for help. We enjoy what we do and we'll enjoy discussing your applications and needs.

# System Support / Custom Programming

There's a lot available for the TBBS/TDBS System Operator, as well as for anyone interested in an Information System (BBS). If you want to learn more about TBBS/TDBS just call our system and register as a customer. GW Associates offers full support to all System Operators and "we have more than twenty excellent programers" available to help with your applications and customizing of your system at a very reasonable cost. Please call our system at (508) 429-8385 (N,8,1) and keep up with our new releases or call us on our voice line at (508) 429-6227 if we can help you in any way. Installing and remotely supporting commercial systems is our ONLY business!





Call our Sales and Support BBS for full demonstrations of over 100 TBBS / TDBS add-on application, entertainment and utility programs.

#### TIBBS / TIDBS SYSTEM ENHANCEMENT SOFTWARE

#### QuickSearch

The ultimate in text file search programs, QuickSearch is the ideal tool for any customer or sales support system. QuickSearch is a program that is designed to create an index of over 11,000 text files in up to 99 directories and allow a user to perform a multiple boolean criteria search to find matches in these files and present them for display or download. It sounds simple, and it is! And it is unbelievably fast. This program is a must if you have a need for fast information retrieval. Easy to install and even easier to maintain, it can quickly put an end to repetitive questions from your users.

#### The Master Series

BoardMaster is the answer to the need for a fast, easy-to-use way to organize and display your message base without using TBBS menus. It allows ONE menu entry, or none at all. It displays up to 999 different message areas/topics with 60 boards displayed on each screen. BoardMaster is fully multi-lingual and color configurable by SysOp and individual users. It has full support for topic boards, Personal Message Groups defined by your users, and many other features to make it easier for your users to access message boards.

PostMaster will handle all your needs for sending mail to users. You create messages that appear very similar to TBBS messages and send to users by a wide range of criteria, including "send to list" capability, without impacting your TBBS message base. It even handles file enclosures. There is no limit to the number of messages that PostMaster will deliver and Individual logs are maintained for each message so you know when messages have been read. Other features include: automatic cutoff; automatic repeat; start delivery on specified date; complete support for ANSI end ASCII users.

#### Master File Manager (MFM)

MFM is designed to make it as easy as possible for your users to download files from fixed disks and compact discs with as little impact to the system as possible. And with the new network interface MFM adds even more capability and flexibility to this well known and full featured program. Hundreds of TBBS SysOps now use MFM to simply and easily handle all their file download requirements.

#### **Entertainment Software**

We have dozens of games and entertainment software available, including the all new The Wild Side (Interactive Adult Adventure), Video Poker, and Chain Links (an addictive word chain puzzle). If you are interested in arcade games, word games, games of chance or adventure games for your TBBS/TDBS system we have them at prices from \$29.95 to \$169.95.

#### Application and Utility Software

We are the recognized source for excellent TBBS/TDBS application and utility software with over 60 programs in our catalog and more being added every week!

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with the digital camera, we will also be shooting with a conventional film camera. Although showing its age in the world in breaking news, film still has its place. Magazines still need the high quality that only an original film image can provide and many smaller newspapers are still not equipped to efficiently handle an electronic image.

Both the DC 200 and the Coolscan will be matched with a Macintosh PowerBook 165c, color notebook computer with 160 megabyte hard disk. The images from the camera and/or the scanner are acquired into Aldus PhotoShop before being compressed using Jpeg and transmitted via modem.

Although, I am a confirmed PC user, I decided on the Magintosh because the MAC system is so widely used in the news industry. Most newspapers got into electronic imaging several years ago, at a time when high quality graphics were very limited on the PC platform. At the time, if you wanted to do electronic imaging the only way to do it was on a Macintosh. Over the year, the MAC has become the unofficial standard for the news industry. Like any large organization, the news industry seens reluctant to make any changes even though there are better and cheaper solutions currently available.

We are also adding the Nikon CP-3000 color printer. Using thermal sublimation dye transfer, this printer produces a full color 5x7 inch print that looks and feels just like a glossy photograph. The best part is that it takes only about three minutes for a final print.

The images from the race sites will be sent to the Marlboro Racing News host computer and then made available online for viewing and downloading. In upcoming articles, I will discuss the other aspects of the Marlboro Racing News computer system, including online display of photographs, image editing software, image storage and archiving, and file exchange between different systems.

Electronic imaging for the news industry is still in its infancy, but it is maturing rapidly. Within three years, I believe, film will be a distant memory for all deadline press organizations. Of

#### MARI BORO RACING NEWS ... THE OFFICIAL INDYCAR NEWS SERVICE

Now in its third year. Marlboro Racing News is a computerized service providing complete and up-to-the minute news and information on IndyCar racing. The system is open to qualified journalists and those directly associated staff members from IndyCar and Philip Morris' Marlboro Racing Program provide registered journalist with background information and historical statistics along with the latest news and race coverage. Regional media representatives affiliated with the Marlboro Racing program in California, Colorado, Chicago and New York also supply material to keep the system continually updated.

Designed by journalists for journalists, the main purpose of Marlboro Racing News is to provide timely, accurate information to the media and to assist deadline media in retrieving needed information in the quickest possible manner.

Like any news service, it operates 24-hours-a-day, every day of the year. of course, the prime sage is during the IndyCar season which runs from late March to October. The 16-race IndyCar season includes events in Australia and Canada as well as such famous U.S. locations as Indianapolis (Indianapolis 500), Long Beach (Toyota Grand Prix of Long Beach), Michigan (Marlboro 500) and Detroit (Detroit Grand Prix).

Among the material found on the system are current race results including qualifying times, boxscores and statistical breakdowns showing current and historical driver earnings, points, wins and poles. Each day during the normal three-day race "weekend" full stories, notes and driver quotes are also available.

Journalists can also find biographies on all drivers, detailed information on individual race tracks, previews of upcoming races and events, and information on IndyCar rules, regulations and history.

Weekly news updates by seasoned and highly respected auto racing journalists are available along with information filed directly by IndyCar teams and sponsors.

New material is filed every day on Marlboro Racing News. The latest addition will be full-color photographs filed from the races. It is the intent that these photographs will be available immediately following, and in some cases during, the current race. Registered users will be able to view the photographic images on-line and/or download the full images for later viewing or

Currently more than 400 journalists in the US and overseas access Marlboro Racing News which is provided at no charge. However, the system is open only to qualified journalists and those directly associated with IndyCar Racing. The system is run like a news service. Its prime intent is to provide timely information for publication in major newspapers and magazines and for broadcast by television and radio stations and networks.

Due to a limitation on the number of incoming lines, it is not possible to provide information to non-journalists and race fans. While fans are the most important part of this or any other sport, it is more efficient to provide them with news and results via major news outlets instead on an individual basis. The final decision on who will have access to the system is determined by IndyCar officials.

Those who qualify as journalists and who wish to gain access to Marlboro Racing News should contact:

Jim Thompson Internet: 321-4127@mcimail.com MCI Mail: 321-4127 or RCN Compuserve: 77727,2677

course, this assumes that some standards for image formats, compression and transmission are agreed upon. For now, it is a place for pioneers - and it's today's pioneers who will establish the standards for tomorrow.

[Jim Thompson is Managing Editor at Western News Service in Los Angeles, California. He also operates the Philip Morris Racing Information System BBS1

#### **MACINTOSH BBS** NEWS

by Bill Gram-Reefer

#### MACWORLD: THE SEQUEL (COLORIZED VERSION)

Last time we took a look at some of the software announcements coming out of MacWorld Expo. This edition, we take off the rose-colored glasses and examine hardware news of note for sysops.

#### I'LL GET YOU MY PRETTY. AND YOUR LITTLE DOG. TOO!

Because of the wonderful things it does, Sharp's Wizard has finally mutated into a personal digital assistant (PDA) with the announcement of a next-generation hand-held wonder, the OZ-9600. And they mean to sign you up, come high Newton or not.

This new version of a product that has been waiting for its market to show up for over four years combines touchscreen pen technology, an "advanced" graphical user interface, an integrated filing system and a variety of personal productivity applications including a calendar, scheduler, user file, anniversary function, to do list, three telephone directories, business card directory(!), outline processor, scrapbook, calculator, home and world clocks, and a secret function to be revealed at a later date. Lions and tigers and bears, oh my.

To prove there's no place like home, you can contact Auntie Em in the storm cellar using the Wizard's modem accessory. When attached, the OZ-9600 can communicate with remote mainframes and personal computers using built-in terminal-mode software that provides both TTY and VT-100 emulation. In terminal mode, the unit can receive electronic mail over most e-mail systems including Easy Link, and MCI Mail, and can communicate with remote computers, on-line data services such as the Lullaby League's BBS, CompuServe, Dow Jones News, or the Official Airline Guide; and fax machines. An optional wireless adapter allows

Wizard information to be printed on a standard PC printer or transferred to a PC or Macintosh computer using Organizer software, which, being somewhere over the rainbow, is scheduled still to arrive by hot-air balloon in the first half of 1993.

In case you need to hobnob directly with other Wizards, the wireless function uses infrared technology to allow data on the screen or complete files to be bidirectionally transferred between other like units. You'll definitely get the feeling that you're not in Kansas anymore when cable-free data exchange of business cards (sic), handwritten entries and other files, for example, can be exchanged via this wireless link to be shared among gangs of electronic organizers. So if you're in a room and everyone's laughing but you, you're better off to see the Wizard.

To prop up the whole charade, Sharp has also announced that a number of independent software developers, system integrators, and value added resellers have committed to produce applications and market software for the OZ-9600. Developments from these fellow travelers on the vellow-brick road include telecommunications, customized integrated circuit cards, and Macintosh- and PC-based software that will expand the Wizard's vertical market. corporate and consumer applications.

Macintosh developers include Concentrix Technologies (Connections, a personal information manager). Power Up Software (Address Book Plus). ON Technology (Meeting Maker, a calendar/scheduler), and After Hours Software (Touch BASE, a contact database). These new programs. new versions, or modules for existing programs all run on the Mac and can export files that can be uploaded and accessed by the Wizard.

I used to ignore the man behind the curtain. I always thought he would just go away like IBM's PCjr. In fact, there was a time when Sharp used to have kiosks in San Francisco's financial district where they'd try to give away these things, but the guys handing out Benson & Hedges always had better days. If I only had a brain, I might have figured



out why I really need a Wizard; electronic business cards, notwithstanding. But for now, I just want to delay the inevitable obnoxious ad campaign in the major metro dailies. Poppies! Yes. poppies will make them sleep.

Sharp Electronics. The Wizard Division, Sharp Plaza, Mahwa, NJ 07430: (800) 321-8877. After Hours Software, 5900 Sepulveda Blvd., Van Nuys, CA 91411: (818) 780-2220.

Concentrix Technologies, 1875 S. Grant St. #760. San Mateo. CA 94402: (415)358-5600.

ON Technology, 155 Second Street, Cambridge, MA 02141; (800) 548-8871.

Power Up Software, 2929 Campus Drive, San Mateo, CA 94403; (415) 345-5900.

#### NUBUS ISDN CARD

Designed and distributed by (get the caps right) EuRoNIS, Planet-ISDN is a NuBus board that connects the Macintosh to national and international integrated service digital networks (ISDN). Available in 18 countries, Planet-ISDN is compatible with ISDN-1, the American standard adopted by AT&T. Northern Telecom and Siemens Stromberg-Carlson, and has passed conformance testing in Bellcore labs. Planet-ISDN is also fully compatible with Apple's Communications ToolBox and Telephone Manager. Using Planet-ISDN and connectivity and file transferring software

such as Access Privilege's The Link and EasyTransfer administrators can interconnect up to eight simultaneous remote sites

The product provides a basic rate interface (BRI) of 64 Kbits/sec. on two B channels, plus 16 Kbits/sec. on one D channel), access to digital PBXs equipped with BRI outputs, management of ISDN supplementary services including call presentation and identification, subaddress and DID management, user-to-user information, and a BRI bus status control utility. Planet-ISDN supports independent and simultaneous management of the two 64 Kbit/ sec. B channels even where one B channel is dedicated to data and the other to voice and other common, everyday telephony functions including video phones and conferencing. Throughput adaption is provided to 56 Kbits/sec. for communications in the U.S. EuRoNIS, 25, rue de Jeuners. Paris France 75002: via AppleLink: EURONIS.

#### **EXTERNAL NUBUS EXPANSION FOR MODULAR** MACS

Billed as a NuBus expansion chassis for the slow-to-market Duo Docks, Second Wave's Expanse NB4 and Expanse NB8 are external boxes that house four or eight NuBus slots. The chassis attach via a NuBus interface card and cable to a Duo Dock or any modular Mac's NuBus slots. Each version contains its own 50-watt power supply, cooling fan, four- or eight-slot motherboard, and the electrical and mechanical hardware to internally mount a 3.5-inch half-height SCSI device. Not small or inexpensive, the NB4. which retails for \$1,295, is about the size of a Macintosh IIsi: while the NB8, which lists at \$2,295, is about the size of a Tlvx.

So if your budget or software forces your BBS to make do with the slots on your single existing CPU, here's an expansion opportunity to consider if you need to make room for more multiport serial cards. Second Wave, Inc., 9430 Research Blvd., Echelon II, Suite #260, Austin, TX 78759; (512) 343-9661 voice; AppleLink: D0864.

#### MORE MODEMS

Scheduled to ship in February, Supra announced its 144PB internal V.32bis faxmodem for Apple's PowerBook. The size of a business card, the new modems utilize Rockwell's new 144ACL. The 144PB comes in two flavors. Retail pricing for the plain vanilla version is slated to fall from \$349.95. The 144PB Plus. which adds voice processing and flash ROM, was scheduled to ship in March and fetch \$ 449.95.

Additional features designed especially for PowerBook users include a hardware wakeup feature that can "hear" the phone ring, then go from sleep to active mode to answer the call. When used with supporting software, the faxmodem can also be set to wakeup at predesignated times to initiate a connection and transmit a fax. FAXstf. which is bundled with the PB144s, supports the wakeup feature. Also hundled comes MicroPhone 1.7 and CompuServe Information Manager. The voice feature makes the modem into a full-featured communication tool.

and the flash ROM will enable field upgradeability via software downloads that can update the ROM. MNP 10 is supported for cellular data transmissions. All the usual protocols are supported, including V.17. V.29. V.27ter fax transmission protocols: with Class 1 and 2 fax software compatibility; and Group 3 fax compatibility.

Another optional implementation of this specific Rockwell chipset. and is available from Supra for a price, is a silent answer feature which enables the same phone line for

voice and fax communication If the modem detects the fax CNG tones, it. routes the call to the fax software. Otherwise, if it's your girlfriend calling, the modem sits silently on the phoneline nodding its head as the call is answered by you or your answering machine.

Meanwhile Haves is shipping its special Macintoch versions of its OPTIMA 14400 FAX 144 Pocket Edition, a quite portable 8.5 ounce battery operated faxmodem, V.32bis and V.17 are used for data transmission and Group 3 faxing, respectively. It comes with Macto-modem cables, battery pack, wall transformer, a carrying case, as well as Smartcom and Smartcom FAX for the Mac. And, of course, it fully implements Hayes' U.S. patented (# 4,549,302) escape sequence and guard time scheme. \$549 list.

Supra Corporation, 7101 Supra Drive SW, Albany, OR 97321; (503) 967-2400. Hayes Microcomputer Products, World Headquarters, 5835 Peachtree Corners East, Norcross, GA 30092-3405; (404) 840-9200.

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SupraFAXModem V.32bis internal with Caller ID	\$399.90	\$189.95
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# ew User Information

All first time callers receive by mail, our printed 'New User Information' and 'E-Mail Conference Directory' guide, as well as a 'Quick Command Guide' to help you get the most out of Aquila. The new user information covers system services such as answers to commonly asked questions, USAToday, Boardwatch Magazine, and Electronic Mail off-line readers. The 'Quick Command Guide' is a desktop lookup for using Aguila commands.

New User Information

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# f Around The World E-MAIL Over 450 Conference Topics

We currently echo to and from ILink, RIME, Fido-Net and Throbnet with more to come in the near future. You can get virtually any question answered here and join in on lively discussions with people from across the country and around the world. We also publish our own 'E-Mail Directory' that is sent to all users of Aquila BBS. This directory lists all of our conferences by category and gives a brief description of the topic of each one. Here is a small sampling of over 450 interesting topics that we offer:

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CD Porta-Drive - CD Technology

#### STORAGE FOR THE AGES

One of the proudest moments any sysop will ever have is when he or she can crow to all of his or her syson friends that, "Hey-you think that's a boss system, hell, I've got three CD-ROM players online with an additional 3 gigsworth of public-domain files."

So in your wildest dreams, remember to back it up. To help you out in that area. check out LaCie Limited. The company has added an 88 Mb version to its line of removable media hard drives. The drive features SyQuest's new SQ5110C mechanism with true interchange capability with 88- and 44-Mb cartridges. According to the company's literature. this new drive can read and write (but not format) existing 44-Mb SyQuest drives. Priced at \$719 and packaged in a zero-footprint case, each drive includes an AC power cable, SCSI cable, instructions, one free 88 Mb cartridge (a \$98 value), and LaCie's Silverlining hard disk management software.

As for CDs, the CD Porta-Drive from CD Technology is still a popular choice for sysops to consider. Fast (200 millisecond access time and 330 Kbits/sec. throughput), reliable (50,000 hours meantime between failure-that's close to 6 years), and ready to go (device

driver, caddy, power supply and Mac cables included), the Porta-Drive is also affordable (\$850 list). And the extra added attraction for all of you clean freaks is that the Porta claims "zero contamination" from dust using four hexes against bothersome air-borne debris: external power supply, a garage door, a sealed drive mechanism, and automatic lens cleansing.

Meanwhile, if you really want to hotwire the data throughput from your hard disk, then you'll want to investigate the SCSI JackHammer from FWB. The SCSI JackHammer is a RISC-based NuBus accelerator card that supports Fast and 16-bit Wide SCSI-2 hard disk drives which can transfer data at up to. take a breath, 20 Mb per second. These drives should be hitting our streets and wallets during 1993. Priced at \$799 when purchased with one of FWB's Hammer drives and at \$999 when bought separately, the JackHammer supports all brands of SCSI hard drives, ships with a customized version of FWB's Hard Disk ToolKit SCSI utility software, and carries a two-year warranty.

Based on the NCR-53C720, a RISCbased 40 MHz SCSI processor chip, the JackHammer features 128K of on-board static RAM, direct memory access at 33 Mb per second, and full implementation of NuBus block transfers. As a NuBus bus-master, the device is able to control activity on the SCSI bus without assistance from the Mac's own CPU. The SCSI port does not disable the Mac's own existing SCSI port, effectively adding support for seven additional SCSI devices. Other advanced features include active termination, universal support for software, command queuing, and software support for duplexing, data striping, read/write caching and turbocharged DAT backup.

ATTO Technology also offers a Fast (only) SCSI-2 accelerator card, the SiliconExpress 3D. The Express supports transfer rates at up to 10 Mb per second, and allows cable lengths of up to 81 feet. Also using a bus-master scheme, the Express frees the host CPU from data transfer chores. The card also allows for true asynchronous I/O support, where multitasking software such as AppleShare and QuickTime can simultaneously perform disk activity while running applications.

Optional software includes ATTO's ExpressMirror, a disk mirroring utility that continuously duplicates every write operation on up to four additional drives; and ExpressStripe, which is used to speed data transfer by accessing data from across several drives simultaneously.

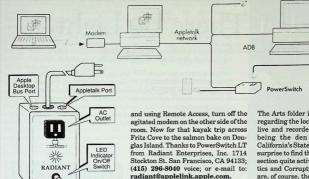
LaCie Limited, 8700 SW Creekside Place, Beaverton, OR 97005; (800) 999-0143.

CD Technology, 766 San Aleso Avenue, Sunnyvale, CA 94086; (408) 752-8500. FWB, Inc., 2040 Polk Street, Suite 215, San Francisco, CA 94109; (415) 474-8055.

ATTO Technology, Inc., 1576 Sweet Home Rd., Amherst, NY 14228; (716) 688-4259

#### TURN ME ON, TURN ME OFF

From Radiant Enterprises comes PowerSwitch LT, an AppleTalk controlled power outlet that can be used to turn your Mac and any AppleTalk-attached peripherals on and off. You can stand there and watch it happen, or you can perform far away feats of conserva-



tion using Apple's Remote Access. \$199. list.

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Through the Apple Desktop Bus (ADB) connection, the PowerSwitch can be turned on with the Mac's startup key. and turned off when the Mac shuts down. In a networked environment, and about 65% of all Macs are that way, you can use the Chooser to control any PowerSwitch on the network. PowerSwitch supports AppleTalk protocols and works on extended networks and with Remote Access. Users can password protect commands and control both the AC outlet and the Macintosh ADB start-up key.

Let's say you've just finished a morning's rafting trip down the Mendenhall and your beeper tells you to call your housesitter in Albuquerque. Sitter says: "Dude(tte). I see smoke coming out of one of those black modern-things with the funny lights. . .'

"Modem," you correct coolly. "Whatever. It stinks! I think you want to better do something."

Not wanting to tempt fate, you whip out your cellular-equipped PowerBook, dial your main computer's modem number,

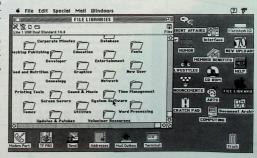
#### MAC BBS OF THE MONTH

MacNexus, based in Sacramento CA is an active, broad-based user group with an equally active and diverse BBS. Major areas of the board include the ScratchPad (club business), Classifieds. Hobby echoes including radio, scanners, aviation, electronics, and my favorite conference, Zymurgy. The Humor area includes general jokes and lawyer jokes like, "What do lawyers and sperm have in common? Only 1 in 100,000 have a chance of becoming a human being."

The Arts folder is full of local threads regarding the local symphony, theater, live and recorded music. Sacramento being the den of thieves that is California's State Legislature, it was no surprise to find the Political conference section quite active, especially the Politics and Corruption discussion. There are, of course, the obligatory files from Apple's PR department. Why on Earth any sysop would want to waste disk space to carry Apple's 4th QTR 10-Q report is beyond me. However, on the bright side, I can report that I couldn't find even one Trek-related file; imagine that. There was a Speculative Fiction area, though, full of toothsome Dracula and berserker Saberhagen fans; so don't despairifyou can't find 28 very personal reviews of last week's episode of Deep Space Nine.

External hard drive

I was impressed with the apparent openness and lack of autocracy with which the BBS, as an adjunct of the user





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group, is refreshingly run. A lot of the daily business of the group, including reports regarding costs for group stationery and other artwork are available for public inspection. It was interesting to find that this full glare of public inspection extended to the board's administrative files, including quarterly log activity, with names of the top uploaders and freeloaders in view for all. It could be you. Claire Poe. Finally, I was charmed by the absence of touchy-feely guile and power trippiness with which the group's board presented it's growing-pain letter to the group. One key issue of concern for MacNexus is how to best support local members from outlying areas that must pay upwards of \$60/ year in toll calls to the telco just to call their "local" BBS. The board is considering the cost of upgrading its lines to include those callers and has faithfully polled its members in what can only be described as a desire to serve.

MacNexus is operated by Sacramento Macintosh User Group. It has 5 lines running at 14.4 Kbps or higher and runs 24 hours per day. Full access to all the files is limited to members only. MacNexus dues are \$30 per year. Dues include 12 monthly newsletters, access to the groups' 24-bit scanner, digital camera, BBS, and special user group promotions. MacNexus, P.O. Box 163058 Sacramento, CA 95816-9058; (916) 455-4MAC (voice) (916) 455-3726 (BBS) 1:203/933 (FidoNet).

#### ATTENTION MAC SYSOPS

If you have a Macintosh-based BBS (even if it isn't GUI), let us know who you are and what you think you're doing that makes your board special. To make things easy for everyone, mail a diskette containing your user program with a preset account, time allotment (1-hr for editorial deadbeats like me should be plenty) and password to the address below so I can log on and take a look around your system. Also include a textfile that describes your board and any interesting places on it you think are special. I'll try to visit as many boards as possible and write about the most interesting ones I can find, MAC BBS, 2069 Highland Drive, Concord, CA 94520.

[Bill Gram-Reefer, based in Concord, CA, is president of WORLDVIEW, a public relations firm specializing in connectivity and communications. Bill has been writing about Macintosh computers since 1984. E-mail Bill at: wk05156@worldlink.coml

#### LEGALLY ONLINE

#### STEVE JACKSON GAMES **DECISION STOPS THE** INSANITY!

by Lance Rose

The lawsuit by Steve Jackson Games against the U.S. government has resulted in an important victory for the rights of BBS sysops and users. On March 12, 1993, federal judge Sam Sparks held that government agents can't just grab a computer bulletin board and rifle through it looking for evidence of crimes. They must respect the privacy rights of all system users. If there is publishing or journalistic activity on the system, the government must also recognize and respect that there is legal protection for those activities.

The Steve Jackson Games (sometimes referred to here as "SJG") decision comes none too soon. Over the past few years we have seen bulletin boards seized right and left under any half-baked pretext that came in handy, and the pace is accelerating. Years before the SJG raid. Tom Tcimpidis had his BBS seized because a credit card number was illegally posted on his system by a user while Tom was on vacation. The Alcor cryogenics folks had their BBS seized when cops were searching for a missing human head (maybe they heard there was a head in the hard drive). Others have had their BBS' seized in connection with claimed phone system hacking, pedophilia, copyright infringement, and pornography, among other things. The latest seizures galvanizing the BBS and computer network community are the seizure of several BBS' by U.S. Customs agents in Operation Longarm, directed at domestic downloads of supposed child pornography from three BBS' in Denmark, and the FBI's seizure of Rusty and Edie's, a 100+ line BBS, on suspicion of software copyright infringement. The modus operandi of the various government agencies getting in on the BBS seizure game is fairly consistent; seize first, ask questions later.

The police and other government agents have a legitimate need to investigate such matters. They are charged with protecting us from harm, even at some risk to their own lives. If a computer running a BBS was no more than a fancy calculator, its seizure by the authorities would fail to budge the most sensitive eyebrow. But BBS' are in fact far, far more than that. They are nerve centers for burgeoning new forms of social activity, involving millions of people in the U.S. alone. When you take the computer running my BBS, you also swipe a complete set of keyholes through which can be seen the private lives of its many users; you board up a meeting place and psychic watering hole attended daily and nightly by dozens, hundreds, or thousands seeking company, cheer or solace; you close down a state-of-the-art publishing and distribution center that dwarfs the publishing capabilities of its ancient cousin, the printing press, at a fraction of the cost.

The facts leading to the Steve Jackson Games case have been described frequently in the BBS literature, and a



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NATIONAL ACCOUNTS AND RETAILERS WELCOME

report on the trial was presented in last month's Boardwatch, so the background will be only briefly recounted here. Three or four years ago, a collection of Secret Service agents and telephone company security officials chased across the country after youthful "hackers' they believed had stolen some data on Bell South's 911 emergency system, the "911 Document". They justified their pursuit outwardly on the basis of estimates placing the value of the document near \$80,000. However, during the trial of one of the supposed hackers it eventually became public that the true value of the document was closer to \$14.00 - the price charged by the phone company if you ordered the information directly from them. So it turned out the financial damage from swiping the 911 document was substantially less than would be caused by a couple of neighborhood thieves snéaking an old black-and-white TV set out of an apartment in the projects. Hardly the kind of thing that normally stimulates the expenditure of great masses of public money on expensive federal agents. As the dust settled, the escapades surrounding the 911 Document, including the nationwide crackdown on backers in 1990 known as Operation Sundevil, stood nakedly revealed as a bunch of old guys with badges playing cops and robbers with teenagers, without any major crimes to blame on the wayward lads. Nonetheless, the cops got a good bit of prosecutorial mileage out of the 911 Document before it finally sank out of sight.

The trail of the 911 document led, among other places, to Lloyd Blankenship in Austin, Texas, who ran the "Phoenix" bulletin board as a suspected "hacker" haven. By the time the cops went to investigate Phoenix, it had been shut down. The trail was not quite cold, however. They found out Blankenship had a day job at Steve Jackson Games, and that he was a co-sysop of the SJG customer support bulletin board. SJG was, and still is, one of the country's leading producers of role-playing adventure games.

Since Blankenship was a sysop of the SJG bulletin board just like he had been sysop of Phoenix, the cops figured SJG must be harboring all of the evil "hacker" material they imagined they would have

found on the Phoenix system. From this exceedingly slender thread they dangled a request to a federal magistrate for a search warrant for the SJG BBS, and somehow they got it. They promptly barged into SJG's offices and took every computer they could find, including one lying in pieces on a bench.

Despite repeated protestations from Steve Jackson and his employees that SJG really was in the game-making business just like it appeared, the government kept the seized computers for many months. Just after the seizure SJG informed the government that it used its computers for various publishing activities, and that its BBS computer contained the private e-mail of many different people. This apparently made little difference to the cops.

After widely publicizing its absurd plight and gaining the interest and support of the Electronic Frontier Foundation and other groups, Steve Jackson Games sued the U.S. government in the federal district court in Austin, Texas for wrongfully raiding its offices and seizing its computer equipment. The thrust of the suit was that the computers in SJG's offices were entitled by law to special protection from government search and seizure for two separate reasons: first, because the BBS computer contained the private e-mail of its many users, and second, because SJG used its computer equipment as part of a publishing operation. The e-mail privacy rights were protected mainly by the federal Electronic Communications Privacy Act, or "ECPA": the publishing protection was created by the federal Privacy Protection Act, or "PPA". Each of these laws creates special requirements which the government must meet before it can search or seize private or publishingrelated materials. In a landmark decision, SJG won its case against the government on both privacy and publishing-related grounds, establishing that federal agents must follow the requirements of the ECPA and PPA when seeking materials contained in BBS', and that the government will be liable if they fail to do so.

In his written opinion, Judge Sparks first addressed SJG's claim that the government violated the Privacy Protection Act when it seized SIG's computer equipment. The PPA is designed to promote freedom of the press. It protects materials being prepared or maintained for publication from government seizure, except where the government believes the publisher or journalist himself was involved in a crime. and that the materials sought relate to that crime.

The judge found that the Secret Service agents literally had no idea that SJG was involved in any kind of publishing activity when they obtained the search warrant and took SJG's computers. Within a couple of days, though, they were fully on notice that SJG was deeply involved in publishing on several fronts. all of which involved SJG's computers: SJG's own game books, such as the GURPS Cyberpunk volume still in development on the computer system at the time it was seized; articles for magazines and newsletters; and materials made available to callers to SJG's computer bulletin board. By this time, the agents were obligated to give all the seized computers and files back to SJG to minimize their disruption of SJG's publishing activities. Instead, they held on to the computer equipment for several more months before returning it.

Judge Sparks held that the agents' unjustified retention of the computer equipment was a clear violation of the PPA, entitling SJG to monetary damages for all resulting losses to its business. The judge awarded SJG a total of \$51,040 on this claim. This was far less than sought by SJG, but the judge was so unimpressed by the testimony of SJG's accountant on actual losses that he threw it all out. Oddly, the judge accepted the government's contention that SJG achieved national notoriety as a result of the improper seizure, which actually ended up helping its business. Perhaps SJG should count itself lucky the judge saw fit to award it any damages at all.

Next up was SJG's claim that the government "intercepted" BBS user's private e-mail when it confiscated SJG's bulletin board system and read through its contents, thus violating the antiinterception provisions of the ECPA. In the case's major sour note, the judge

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denied this claim, citing to an earlier case declaring that an "interception" does not occur when government agents listen to voice conversations recorded on a cassette tape.

This part of the ruling is a real headscratcher. If any of the e-mail on the seized BBS was undelivered to the addressees at the time of the raid, the Judge Sparks' analogy to a conversation recorded on a cassette does not hold A voice conversation on cassette is complete: there's nothing to intercept. the discussion's over. In contrast, an undelivered e-mail message is either a response to a prior message from another e-mail sender, a message seeking a reply, or both. It is a discussion still in progress. Grabbing the latest message in this discussion is clearly "intercenting"it, and fits easily within the ECPA's statutory coverage.

Fortunately, SJG had another e-mail privacy claim under the ECPA. SJG asserted that by reading the e-mail on its BBS, the agents also violated a section of the ECPA securing privacy for "stored electronic communications" (as opposed to intercepting messages in transit). Government agents can not legally read private electronic messages unless they believe they are "relevant to a legitimate law enforcement inquiry." Judge Sparks found the Secret Service had no such belief. They just dragged the BBS back to their office and browsed through it for interesting stuff. Even more outrageously, the government kept the search warrant sealed for several months after the raid, so that SJG's lawyers could not attack it in court during that period. This gave the agents all the time they wanted to mull over the private e-mail of the BBS users at their leisure, without interference from the victims of their illegal conduct.

The judge got this second ECPA claim right, holding that the government violated the privacy rights of Steve Jackson Games and of four individual e-mail users who had joined the suit on SJG's side. In his words, "the Secret Service in this case virtually eliminated the safeguards contained in the statute." He awarded all the plaintiffs the statutory amount of \$1000 each, but denied any additional compensation. Such a small

amount hardly stings the government's wallet. It is little more than a symbolic slap on the wrist for the agents' atrocious intrusion into the private lives of BBS users. On the bright side, the judge's readiness to award all e-mail plaintiffs \$1000 per head implies that class action suits may work quite well in future struggles against BBS seizures. If all the e-mail users of the Steve Jackson Games BBS had sued as a class, the total damage award against the Government at \$1000 a head could have added up to real money.

In all, not a bad few months' work by Steve Jackson Games and its attorneys. They pried loose from the government a total of \$56,040,00 in compensation plus all attorneys' fees (the latter amount can easily exceed the compensation damages in a lawsuit of this scope). More importantly for the rest of us, they established that two different federal statutes can be used to protect BBS' against government excess, even though neither the ECPA nor the PPA was enacted specifically for the benefit of BBS'. This is an important cornerstone in the work of securing dependable freedom from government interference in the future development of BBS' and the computer network community.

Though the results in the SJG case were very good on balance, a couple of major BBS legal issues were left for better resolution on another day. One is the judge's failure to find an "interception" of e-mail by the Secret Service, based on his mistaken analogy of a not-yet-received BBS message to a completed past conversation recorded on cassette tane. This mistake must and shall be corrected at some point, either in another court or in explanatory legislation. Another is the finding that SJG was a "publisher" for purposes of the PPA. This holding was good and correct, but it leaves the applicability of the PPA largely undetermined for other BBS'. Steve Jackson Games was a print publisher, and its computers were used to support the print publishing operation. What about BBS' that publish their information in electronic form only? What about BBS' that do not publish anything themselves in the traditional sense, but host public conferences? The SJG case simply does not give guidance

on when a non-printing BBS qualifies as a publisher or journalistic operation for purposes of PPA protection.

One theme that surfaces frequently in Judge Sparks' 27-page opinion is the government's "I Dunno Defense". According to the government's attorneys. the Secret Service agents who made off with SJG's computers were just too confused to do it right. All that newfangled technology, all those complicated federal procedural laws - how could they know there were any limits on their ability to take people's property? But they meant well, so let's excuse all their blunders and conveniently forget the harm their bumbling worked on innocent citizens

The I Dunno Defense works best with judges who feel a bit befuddled by the new technology and new statutes themselves. Look at it from the judge's point of view. If he has a hard time figuring out BBS' as a new social phenomenon. how can he possibly expect the law enforcement folks to understand the stuff any better? In an ideal world, the I Dunno Defense would be swiftly slapped down as the disrespectful, condescending ruse it is. Unfortunately, it worked sufficiently well for the government to avoid the real pasting it deserved in this case.

I Dunno Defense #1 was that the Secret Service agents did not know about the Privacy Protection Act when they first requested a warrant to take the SJG equipment. What kind of excuse is that? If ignorance of legal limits is officially accepted as a valid excuse for the government to overstep its authority, then we officially have no real protection against the government at all. I Dunno Defense #2: at the time of the raid, the agents had no idea that SJG used the seized computer equipment for publishing. Under this theory, government agents are supposedly incapable of imagining that a computer bulletin board might be involved in "publishing" of any sort. These very same agents doubtless use information published by a plethora of online information services regularly to investigate every kind of suspect and situation. Yet it never crossed their minds that the computers and online information service run by



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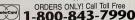
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Steve Jackson Games might do some sort of publishing?

Judge Sparks accepted both of these I Dunno Defenses when he refused to find that the initial seizure of SJG's equipment by the Secret Service was improper under the PPA: "The Court does not find from a preponderance of the evidence that the admitted errors in Foley's affidavit were intentional and so material to make the affidavit and issuance of the warrant legally improper. . . The affidavit and warrant preparation were simply sloppy and not carefully done." Wow! Under established law. when warrants are sought to search businesses protected by the First Amendment, government agents and courts are supposed to be especially careful! Sloppy searches are simply illegal. Moreover, if the agents had kept their slop in check and looked into whether SJG was engaged in publishing, they might not even have seized the computers in the first place. The judge's decision on this point is flat wrong. The answer to wrongful searches is not to excuse gross blunders by uninformed agents, but to slap those agents down hard enough to give the government a real incentive to educate itself far better on how to protect us all.

To Judge Sparks' credit, at least he refused to accept the same government excuse for the Secret Service's undue retention of SJG's equipment after the initial seizure. When the agents became fully informed about SJG's publishing operations within a day or two after the seizure, they became obligated to back up the information they needed for their investigation and return the computers unscathed to Steve Jackson Games. The judge also showed superior judgment when faced with the government's truly astounding I Dunno Defense #3: in this variation, the government claimed that even though the Secret Service agents were aware of the special warrant requirements of the Electronic Communications Privacy Act (as well they should be, since it is the entire basis for their involvement in the computer crime business in the first place) and failed to mention these requirements to the magistrate when requesting the warrant, the resulting improper warrant and seizure should still be excused because they relied on that warrant in "good faith". The judge merifully dispensed with that circular argument with forehead-slapping swiftness

The government's shameless deployment of the I Dunno Defense and Judge Sparks' partial acceptance of that defense to temper his findings of government misfeasance confirm the need for a simple defensive strategy recently devised by Steve Jackson himself: the use of warning labels on all computers and related equipment in any place where a BBS is running. The basic label should boldly and expressly warn government agents that the computer equipment is used for publishing, private messages, and as a public meeting place. It should also mention the basic laws governing search warrants for BBS' - the Electronic Communications Privacy Act, the Privacy Protection Act, and that old standby the Bill of Rights. Slap the labels on your equipment, then photograph the equipment with the labels on it to retain proof that labels are indeed on the equipment. You never know what might happen after it's hauled back to the raiding agent's office. The government's use of ignorance to avoid its legal limits will be sharply curtailed if BBS owners display clear references to all the pertinent legal limits on governmental search and seizure emblazoned on their boxes.

The Steve Jackson Games case is only a trial court decision, giving it limited authority with other courts, and it may yet be appealed. Even so, the decision is a key event in the development of BBS law, and shows that it is going in the right direction. It is one of only two major court decisions to date on major issues of BBS law. The other was Cubby v. CompuServe, discussed in these pages in the past, which recognized 1st Amendment limits on a sysop's duty to monitor message traffic. Happily, both the SJG case and the Cubby case were decided in a way that expands the acknowledged legal protection for BBS'. We have not yet seen any clunkers setting back the cause for BBS legal protection, and hopefully we'll continue to be spared the displeaThe SJG case also shows that BBS privacy rights against the government piggyback on the privacy rights of individual BBS users, in much the same way as the BBS First Amendment rights recognized in the Cubby case piggybacked on the free speech rights of individual users. The sysop still wields power over who may use his BBS, but the fundamental relationship between sysop and BBS user is not like that of landlord and tenant: it's symbiotic. The still-common practice among sysops of denving users any privacy on the BBS is revealed more clearly than ever as a mistake. Now, denying user privacy no longer merely shows lack of respect for users' affairs. It actively removes the BBS' strongest defense against government seizure under the Electronic Communications Privacy Act, by removing the user privacy rights on which that protection is based.

The user privacy point has an additional complication. While we need genuine privacy of user messages for strong ECPA protection against search and seizure, the SJG case shows it is also important to identify the users affected by a raid in order to successfully pursue the ECPA claim. Only identified e-mail users were awarded damages by the Judge Sparks, even though many other BBS users affected. Ironically, assuring maximum privacy protection under the ECPA means that user e-mail should be kept private on the BBS, but all users should be identified at least to the sysop, so their injuries can be counted for increasing the penalty against the government in the event of an improper raid.

Without taking away from the SJG victory, there is a final disturbing aspect to the case, reaching back to the essential nature of what lawyers call our "adversarial system of justice". The legal game in the U.S. allows the parties to a lawsuit to take entirely opposed positions, tell completely conflicting stories and deny any shred of validity in the other party's view. The government heartily played this game to the hilt in defending itself against Steve Jackson Games, denying in every possible way that U.S. civil rights laws protect computer bulletin boards or their users.

Luckily for us all, the government lost. But why didn't the government just admit it made a big mistake in raiding Steve Jackson Games, and go back to chasing its "hacker" playmates? Why was it so important for the government to try and justify its grossly improper and entirely mistaken intrusion into Steve Jackson Games' business?

Some might guess the government was craftily playing devil's advocate. trying to help create protective case law for BBS' by raising anti-civil-rights positions just so they would be refuted decisively by the judge. Such a possibility is highly unlikely. Going into the trial there was a very real chance Judge Sparks could have found the government's raid entirely justified. and left Steve Jackson Games without a remedy. We must assume the government lawyers meant what they said when they argued that the PPA and ECPA did not protect BBS', and that even if they do, a raid violating those laws will not be improper if the agents had no idea that BBS' have special legal protections. There's a

serious attitude problem on the part of the people employed by our government to protect us. Hopefully, the lawyers for our U.S. government will carefully read and learn from the judge's opinion in the case they just lost against Steve Jackson Games. and properly instruct their field agents and magistrates about the rights of those who run BBS' and those who use them

[Lance Rose is an attorney practicing high-tech, computer and intellectual property law in Montclair New Jersey, and is available on the Internet elrose@well.sf.ca.us and CompuServe at 72230,2044. He works with shareware publishers. software authors, system operators, technology buyers, interactive media developers, on-line database services and others in the high technology area. He is also author of the book SYSLAW, a legal guide for bulletin board system operators, available from PC Information Group (800)321-8285. - Editorl

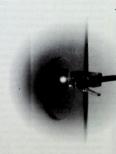
#### DIRECT DIAL

#### SENET - COIN OPERATED **BULLETIN BOARD INVADES** COFFEE HOUSE CULTURE

After a career as a produce distributor. general contractor, and real estate salesman. Wayne Gregori had yet to find his place in the world. He did dabble in computer consulting, and so encountered the world of bulletin boards. In 1990, he started an interesting, but unprofitable BBS called the Compact Disk Exchange in San Francisco. The system allowed callers to swap and trade Compact Audio Discs and did gain some popularity. But the procedures to transfer funds and discs were awkward, and the system evolved to become lots of work and little cash flow

In the summer of 1991, Gregori hit on a different approach to make operating a bulletin board profitable. He designed and built a coin-operated terminal and placed it in a San Francisco coffee house. Today, he operates SFnet, a 30 line

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TBBS system offering a mix of features to callers in the San Francisco area, including patrons of some 18 coffee houses.

San Francisco features dozens of coffee houses offering pastries, gingerbread, cappuccino, coffee, and latte of industrial strength. Patrons use the coffee houses to meet, relax, and often just to read a book and have a cup of coffee. The culture vaguely resembles the coffee house culture of the late 'sixties, with poetry, occasional musical performances on a small scale, and a general underground feel. Today's culture includes "slackers" - young people who have basically avoided the rigors of school and work, working just enough to survive on the edge of society, and hanging out.

Gregori designed a reasonably vandal-proof terminal table constructed largely of plywood painted with Zolotone-a fibrous paint mixture used to coat the interior of automobile



Wayne Gregori with RJ-11 Table at The Club - a San Francisco Coffee House



SFNet - BBS in a Kitchen

trunks. The table serves admirably as a coffee house table, but features a monochrome monitor shining directly up through a glass inset set in the center of the table. An ordinary PC keyboard, covered with a "keyboard

condom" plastic shield is mounted on the edge of the table. A coin box allows coffee house habitues to swap quarters for time.

The terminal, which Gregori has termed an "RJ11 Table", consists of a power supply, a very smallish XT motherboard with two serial ports, a 3.5-inch floppy drive, the monochrome monitor, and a modem. The coin box is connected to one serial port while a modem is connected to the other. A specially written terminal program monitors the coin box and keeps the time meter internally, while allowing users to connect to the SFNet BBS. The device resembles nothing so much as the old PAC-MAN tables that became common in bars and night clubs in the mid-eighties.

Users, can view an information file about SFNet, a help file on how to use it, and by putting in a couple of quarters, logon to the BBS without any technical knowledge or even the telephone number. Additional time can be purchased in quarter increments essentially the equivalent of about \$3 per hour.

The system automatically dials the SFnet BBS and each table has its own dedicated port on the BBS. After an incident where hackers wardialed to determine the telephone numbers of these ports, Gregori, and his programming assistant Dave Lahti, modified the proprietary terminal software so that it did a little handshake between the table and the BBS before allowing access.

The system features a number of message conferences covering politics, social issues, and so forth, an Internet mail function, and some interactive games like Chat Chess and Chat Poker. Indeed, the multiline chat function seems to be the most popular activity among the coffee house crowd - though many do maintain personal mail boxes on the system. With the Internet mail function, people who do not even own a computer can receive and send e-mail world wide - for the price of a quarter - from a local coffee house.

And there are plenty to choose from. Gregori has persuaded some 18 coffee



SFNet - Coin Operated BBS

houses in the area to feature his table. Basically, they get a free piece of furniture perfectly suitable for knoshing on a bran muffin with double latte, along with 10 to 15% of the monthly haul of quarters. According to Gregori, some of the less active sites generate as little as \$150 per month, while the better spots generate as much as \$600 monthly. Gregori supplies the telephone line necessary to connect the table.

Since we have a bit of a weakness for coffee anyway, we visited several of these clubs during a recent visit to San Francisco. We found the coffee a bit strong for our tastes, but the RJ11 tables in more or less constant use. Curiously, one of the main features of all of these coffee houses is a conventional cork bulletin board on the wall - plastered with layers of notices for roomates wanted, places to rent wanted, various music and poetry festivals and events. One of the side effects of the RJ11 tables is that at any given time in the evening, as many as 18 people in coffee houses are actually talking to each other via this multiline chat network. They can be as anonymous, or as intimate as they wish. And if they do decide they want to meet, they can usually travel over to the other coffee house to consumate the face-to-face portion of the meeting.

The BBS itself is located in a very pleasant house on Noe street in San

Francisco where Gregori lives with his wife, Jill, and two sons Ben, age two, and Devin, age four. The BBS is actually in their kitchen. And this has to be one of the neatest BBS installations we've seen. Two monitors and keyboards occupy a counter at one end of the kitchen. The PC and all the modems are held in a rollout box Gregori designed that has RJ-11 jacks, serial port connectors, power supplies, etc. all on a unified rack mounted on wheels. The unit sits under the counter, but slides out easily for main-

tenance.

The system uses cSoft's TBBS software, and the entire rack is filled with US Robotics Sportster 2400 bps modems. File downloading doesn't seem to be a big draw on the system, with most of the usage given to mail conferences, Internet mail, and chat. Gregori does have one dedicated V.32bis port for those using offline QWK mail readers. Table manufacture occurs in a room over the garage.

Aside from the 18 lines for the RJ11 Tables, the system does sport an additional 12 lines for a regular clientel of people dialing from home. They access the system at a modest \$7 per month. The primary access number is (415)824-8747 but there are local access numbers in South San Francisco, Sausalito, Burlingame, San Leandro, and Oakland.

SFNet is innovative in several ways, but most notably in that it brings the activity and culture of bulletin boards to a group that wouldn't ordinarily encounter it. With coffee as high as \$4 a cup, the 50 cents needed to access the system doesn't seem too high a price to pay. Coffee house patrons are drawn to the activity of the BBS callers, and BBS callers likewise seem attracted to a BBS with users seaf-



An Early Model Terminal at Muddy Waters Coffee House



# Give Your BBS the Internet Advantage!

HoloUUCP connects your BBS to Internet E-Mail and USENET News. With Internet E-mail you can exchange mail with people all over the world. Internet E-Mail reaches over 11 million mailboxes, including major commercial services like CompuServe and America Online.

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HoloDNS is an option you can have with HoloUUCP. HoloDNS provides a custom Internet address for your BBS. For example, your members would have an address like "first.last@your-BBS.com". The one time setup fee for HoloDNS is \$25.00.

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tered among San Francisco's coffee houses. They do seem to be two distinctly different groups.

Gregori also plans on extending the concept to other cities. He views it as a community building project and this summer he in-

> tends to manufacture the RJ11 tables and sell them to BBS operators around the country at about \$2600 each. We here from BBS operators with this type of concept continually, but all seem stymied by the lack of availability of a rugged, coin operated terminal. It would seem there finally is one, SF NET, PO Box 460693, San Francisco, CA 94146: (415)695-9824 voice.



Is that Buddy Holly with an RJ-11 Table

#### INTERNET

#### SECOND ANNUAL EFF PIONEER AWARDS

The Electronic Frontier Foundation presented it's second annual Pioneer Awards in a March 10 ceremony at the Computer's Freedom and Privacy Conference at the San Francisco Marriott Hotel in Burlingame, California.

The five recipients were judged to have made significant and influential contributions to the field of computerbased communications. The judging panel consisted of Jim Warren, pioneer award recipient from 1992 and founder of the Computers, Freedom. and Privacy Conference, Steve Cisler of Apple Computer, Esther Dyson, editor of Release 1.0, and Bob Metcalfe. Editor of Infoworld.

Award recipients included:

#### PAUL BARAN

Paul Baran was the original inventor of the concept of packet switching, a technology of fundamental importance to data networks and eventually led to the TCP/IP network protocol used by the Internet. Baran also founded several communications companies including Telebit, Packet Technologies, Equatorial Communications, Metricom, InterFax, and Com21.

#### DR. VINTON CERF

Dr. Vinton Cerf led the research project which developed the TCP/ IP protocol suite, the open system interconnection protocol used today by schools, government, corporations, and individuals to communicate over the Internet. Dr. Cerf also participated in development of ARPANET host protocols, Internet management, and network security programs for DARPA. He led development of the MCI Mail service. He is currently vice president of the Corporation for National Research Initiatives, and he founded the Internet Society.



Mitch Kapor presents Pioneer Award to Ward Christensen -author of first BBS software

#### WARD CHRISTENSEN

Ward Christensen developed the software for the first microcomputer dial-in system which he christened a Computer Bulletin Board System or CBBS. He also wrote a program MODEM.ASM which evolved into XMODEM, one of the earliest file transfer protocols and one which became so ubiquitous that it became a defacto standard for the transfer of files between computer users.

#### DAVE HUGHES

Hughes has been an outspoken and effective grassroots evangelist and spokesperson for popular computer networking and electronic democracy for over a decade. He fashioned his own computer system at Old Colorado City Communications in 1985, and soon brought the municipal elected government of Colorado Springs online. He helped design and implement a personal computer network connecting one-room rural schoolhouses in Montana to worldwide information resources. He continually brings network connections and new applications to new populations both here and abroad.

# TOM TRUSCOTT AND JAMES ELLIS

Usenet is a distributed bulletin board system with approximately two million readers worldwide. It came into being in late 1979 through the inspiration of Tom Truscott and Jim Ellis, combined with the design and programming efforts of

Steve Bellovin, Stephen Daniel, and Dennis Rockwell. Following USENET's introduction in 1980, the resulting and ever-expanding collection of "newsgroups" began to be carried and circulated by a growing number of networked rives. The ongoing work of numerous individuals has allowed Usenet to survive its increasing popularity. Daily traffic now approximates 20,000 articles, totaling 50 MB, posted to over 2000 different newsgroups.

Tom Truscott is currently a distributed computing professional at IBM in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina. He has authored a number of UNIX-related articles, and is a member of ACM, IEEE, and Sigma Xi.

James Ellis is currently the Manager of Technical Development at the Computer Emergency Response Team, created to assist Internet sites with computer security incidents. He is responsible for analyzing UNIX system vulnerabilities and for developing security tools for the Internet.

The EFF also held a board meeting at the Computers Freedom and Privacy Conference and continues to struggle to define its role as a lobbying organi-



John Perry Barlow presents Pioneer Award to Vinton Cerf- TCP/ IP developer. Jerry Berman and Esther Dyson foreground

zation, and its relationship to local organizations and the network. Jerry Berman, named Executive Director of EFF was prominent at the convention and very much trying to appear "nonsuit" and "online."

The EFF has apparently had a change of heart regarding their distancing from the network and BBS communities. Mike Godwin, who has done most of the work with BBS operators regarding legal issues, was reaffirmed with the EFF and will be joining the Washington office under Jerry Berman. And Cliff Figallo, briefly director of the now closed Cambridge office, is relocating back to California but will now take charge of online communications - working with the eff.org site, the CompuServe EFF forum, and other online forums.

At the Pioneer award ceremony, cofounder Mitch Kapor again reiterated the need for backing and support of the EFF from the online community through memberships. Memberships are fully tax deductible at \$20.00 per year for students, \$40.00 per year for regular members, and \$100.00 per year for organizations. You may, of course, donate more if you wish. Memberships can be forwarded by mail to The Electronic Frontier Foundation, Inc., 666 Pennsylvania Ave., Washington, DC 20003; (202)544-9237 voice; (202)547-5481 fax: Internet: eff@eff.org

#### **BOOK OF SMILES**

O'Reilly & Associates publishes smallish books of a very technical nature, but usually on subjects that we find very useful as the world of bulletin boards and the world of the Internet move toward a merge. We've reviewed a number of their "Nutshell" series books in the past.

But we recently received one that serves little purpose beyond cute with a very modest \$5.95 price tag that makes cute obtainable. The book is titled SMILEYS, by David Sanderson, and consists of over 650 emoticons (smiley faces) compiled by Sanderson. In 93 pages, Sanderson covers most of the smileys you may have encountered, and a great many

others you may not have thought of. Emoticons are little faces designed using keyboard characters that you view sideways. They are used to impart some sense of humor or context in message text that could be viewed as humorous, or just as easily, as an attack if it did not include a "smilev". The basic :-) smilev has evolved into hundreds of variants including:

- ;-) winking smiley
- confused smiley 8-1 schocked smiley 8-0
  - &:-) curly hair with glasses
- B-) 8-1 sad/confused

In recognition of the publication of "Smileys". O'Reilly & Associates has announced "The Best New Smiley Contest." The person who submits the best smiley not already found in SMILEYS. will win \$500. People interested in submitting their best smileys should do so before the contest closes October 1, 1993. Compiler David Sanderson will be one of the judges. Submit your smiley to smiley@ora.com or by street mail to "Smiley Contest," O'Reilly and Associates, Inc., 103 Morris St. Sebastopol, CA 95472. (800)998-9938 voice: (707)829-0515 International: (707)829-0104 fax. David Sanderson can be reached at dws@ssec.wisc.edu.

You do not have to purchase the book to enter the contest. A list of smiley's included in the book is available by telnet at telnet gopher.ora.com. Item 1 on the menu is NEWS FLASH! and contains the entire list.

To promote the book, O'Reilly is also featuring a "Smiley Contest". Anyone can submit new smileys, and author David Sanderson will pick the best new smiley (not currently included in the book). The winner will receive \$500. Smiley entries can be e-mailed to smiley@ora.com before October 1, 1993.

#### **FULL TEXT FEDERAL** REGISTER AVAILABLE ONLINE

Commercial providers of government information are in an awkward position. For most of the online community, these are the "unclean." They take information we've already paid for, and then try to sell it to us, usually for fairly proud prices. The information itself is in most cases simply not copyrightable, and the value added component they put into their product is hard to differentiate, and easy to appear to remove.

The government is part of the problem. True enough the information is there and it should belong to us. But bureacrats have a million ways to justify fairly enormous prices for information - almost entirely dedicated to making people go away so they can deal with the minimum number of consumers. The net effect is that anything can be had for a price, but only very large companies can afford

Each day, Congress publishes a book called the Federal Register. Available by 08:30 each morning, this is the official book of record of activity in the Federal Government and an enormous amount of information is contained in it. Actually, anyone can subscribe to the printed book at \$1000 per year for 1st Class postal delivery. or \$400 per year sent book rate. The Government Printing Office DOES make it available in data format on 9track tapes in ATEX format - a popular publishing system format from sometime around the 3rd century BC. But daily delivery of these tapes runs a cool \$40,000 per year.

Counterpoint Publishing has been developing a niche in info-land by taking the GPO tapes, stripping out the control codes to get down to ASCII text, indexing the various articles and information bits, and providing them on a weekly CD-ROM complete with access software. Subscriptions to this weekly CD-ROM service run \$1950 per year. They also have archives of the Federal Register going back three years.

But for some customers, even weekly access is too slow. And in response to customer requests, Counterpoint began looking at ways to put the service online. They found a company in their own office building titled The

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Internet Company (internet.com) and reached an agreement to put the Federal Register online via Internet.

They've done a pretty thorough job of it. It's offered a variety of different ways. A full feed of the days register comprises about 2.5 MB daily on average - though it can run 5-6MB on days were the bureaucratic bees have been busy. It can be routed to your Internet site in a format for Gopher or WAIS access at between \$2000 and \$6000 per year depending on the number of users at your site.

They also make the Register available in NNTP (Usenet News) format as a series of some 17 newsgroups:

agriculture commerce defense education energy environ finance foreign govern

health humansery legal

science transport misc

These are available for \$500 per year per newsgroup or \$2000 per year for the full set. There is a 50% discount for educational institutions.

While these prices may be feasible for institutions and large commercial services, they're a bit proud for individual users. But the company does run a service you can access by telnet at a price of \$10 per hour MC/VISA/check at netsys1.netsys.com. And they're fairly open about letting you try it out before committing to use. If you telnet netsys1.netsys.com and logon as FEDREG with password REGISTER, you can browse about the system a bit and sample the wares.

The system is actually extremely well done compared with most services we've seen on the Internet. It uses the Internet Gopher Information Client Version 1.1 and it actually makes things quite accessible. The system

### Gopher Information Client v1.11 Federal Register by Agency Name

1. Administrative Conference of the United States 2. African Development Foundation

3. Agency for Health Care Policy and Research

4. Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Reg-

5. Agricultural Marketing Service

6. Agricultural Research Service 7. Agriculture Department

8. Air Force Department 9. Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

10. Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board

11. Arms Control and Nonproliferation Policy Office 12. Army Corps of Engineers

13. Army Department 14. Census Bureau

15. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention 16. Children and Families Administration

17. Coast Guard 18. Commission on Civil Rights

19. Committee for Purchase from People who are Blind or Severely Disab. 20. Committee for the Implementation of

Textile Agreements 21. Commodity Futures Trading Commission

22. Community Planning and Development Agency
23. Consumer Product Safety Commission

24. Copyright Royalty Tribunal 25. Customs Service

26. Defense Department 27. Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board

28. Drug Enforcement Administration 29. Education Department

30. Employment Standards Administration 31. Employment and Training Administration 32. Energy Departmen

33. Environmental Protection Agency 34. Environmental Restoration and Waste

Management Office

35. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission 36. Export Administration Bureau

37, Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity Agency 38. Farm Credit Administration 39. Federal Aviation Administration

40. Federal Communications Commission 41. Federal Crop Insurance Corporation

42. Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation 43. Federal Election Commission

44. Federal Emergency Management Agency 45. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission 46. Federal Grain Inspection Service

47. Federal Highway Administration 48. Federal Housing Finance Board 49. Federal Maritime Commission

50. Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission 51, Federal Railroad Administration

52. Federal Reserve System

53, Federal Trade Commission 54. Federal Transit Administration/ 55. Fiscal Service

56. Fish and Wildlife Service 57, Food and Drug Administration 58. Food and Nutrition Service 59. Foreign-Trade Zones Board

60. Forest Service 61. Fossil Energy Office

62. Health Resources and Services Administration 63. Health and Human Services Department

64. Housing and Urban Development Department 65. Immigration and Naturalization Service 66 Indian Affairs Bureau

67. Interior Department 68. Internal Revenue Service 69. International Trade Administration 70. International Trade Commission

71. Interstate Commerce Commission 72. Justice Department 73. Labor Department

74. Land Management Bureau 75. Legal Services Corporation 76. Management and Budget Office

77. Military Traffic Management Command 78. Minerals Management Service

79. National Aeronautics and Space Administration 80. National Assessment Governing Board 81. National Credit Union Administration

82. National Endowment for the Arts 83. National Foundation on the Arts and the Humani

84. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration 85. National Institutes of Health

86. National Labor Relations Board 87. National Marine Fisheries Service 88. National Oceanic and Atmospheric

Administration 89. National Park Service 90. National Science Foundation 91. National Transportation Safety Board

92. Navy Department 93. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

94. Overseas Private Investment Corporation 95. Patent and Trademark Office

96. Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation 97. Personnel Management Office 98. Postal Rate Commission

99. Presidential Documents 100. Public Health Service 101. Railroad Retirement Board

102. Rural Electrification Administration 103. Securities and Exchange Commission 104. Small Business Administration

105. Social Security Administration 106. Soil Conservation Service 107. State Justice Institu

108. Thrift Supervision Office 109. Trade Representative 110. Transportation Department 111. Treasury Department

112. United States Fire Administration 113. United States Information Agency

114. Veterans Affairs Department 115. Victims of Crime Office

116. Western Area Power Administration 117. miscellaneous

can handle 60 simultaneous users. The main menu lists: Information About This System, The Federal Register, Commerce Daily, and The New Republic Magazine.

Commerce Daily is a publication covering various government contracts.

requests for proposal, solicitations for bid, and so forth. It is pretty much required reading for government contractors

The New Republic Magazine actually isn't a government publication at all.

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but rather a magazine about government with mucho editorial.

But the heart of the system is the Federal Register. You can access the register by government agency, by topical area, or with a pretty handsome full text keyword search. This last is most useful. We entered the word MODEM and retrieved easily 40 entries - various notices by government agencies of software and electronic filing requirements by modem. But we did find one interesting note about the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Commission Issuance Posting System (CIPS) a BBS operating at (202)208-1781.

The listing by agency basically sorts all Federal Registry daily articles into 117 different categories based on who's ox got gored.

One feature of this Gopher version we immediately found fascinating was the e-mail deliver service. Any article of interest you find on the system can be delivered to your e-mail box. Simply select <m>mail and the system will prompt you for an e-mail address. The system will then "deliver" that document to your mailbox anywhere within the reach of the Internet. Very handy.

While the bulk of the information on this system is government information, the indexing and search features of the system really are quite well done and comprise a significant added value worth the \$10 per hour connect fee for many who might need the information. Given that much of what happens within our government does show up in the Federal Register daily, this comprises an invaluable research tool. Counterpoint Publishing, 84 Sherman Street, Caimbridge, MA 02140; (800)998-4515 voice; Internet: fedreg@internet.com.

### NETWORKING FROM ST. PETERSBURG

by Arcady Khotin

Dear Jack!

I'm so sorry for being so procrastinate with my reports! Well, better late then

never. Just one more thing to lift a burden of my guilta bit: January's issue was brought to me only in mid. February! Apparently, KGB guys were too busy making copies of your interesting articles <g>.

I will try to catch up a bit, describing what is going on in the three main telecommunications areas we have:

- FIDO
- Internet/Relcom, GlasNet, Sprint and
- Commercial Networks and business activities

Please, correct me, if this is not the topics you'd like to hear from St.Pete.

Just the day before yesterday, on Saturday, Mar. 6. I talked with Daye Hughes from Colorado (He was in Moscow, and I went there to meet with him). What a great guy! Full of energy, able to energize everybody around. Geez, I'd like to spend some time in his favorite computerized bar <g>. As he said - physically. I'm here, but my mind is there. If only we'd have free access to IP links...

Was shown his TELEDRAW. I'm a bit envy with the Moscow guys - why should they always be choosen, but otherwise am very glad with their results and proud, that this program was written in Russia. Hope to bid for MAC version of his TELEDRAW.

### FIDO:

Fall and Winter were good seasons for our FIDO community, we managed to add several more echo areas to the vast amount the ones we are supporting in St.Pete (can send you a full list on request). Half a dozen more BBS added since your last report in February's issue of Boardwatch.

The more FIDO gets wider and wider appreciation in Russia (and CIS countries), the more we need something as developed, but based on some other technology, like RIME, for example. You guys are lucky to have almost all of the Networks easily accessible - it gives you the power to choose the best

one, most suited to ones needs. Over here - we are doomed to have FIDO. and only FIDO, because of our inability to arrange links with the outside world. Either we have to beg with the Networking community to poll us every night, or have to rely on our own enthusiasts, who'd manage to force their company to pay for their calls ahroad

As far as I know, all Russia is using practically two or three tiny dial up links with the West - Yury Zaitsey from Tallin polls Finland, Peter Kvitek from Moscow also calls Finland and Michael Pogrebniak from St. Pete polls Germany. There were some guys in Novosibirsk, who used to get calls from Holland, some other guys from Minsk, who'd get some info from Poland, but the three of the above links are the main ones

As usually, our FIDO conferences are full different stuff-from Esther Dyson's recent RelEast 1 issue, to discussions about the underground infrastructure we allegedly have in St.Pete and Moscow.

The structure of FIDO users is quite different in Russia and US, BTW. Our users are mostly corporate, only tiniest part has computers at home, available day and night. As a result - heavy load on BBS during office hours ( and with several time zones, as we have, it could be almost around the clock for the popular boards, like JV Dialogue 1st, in Moscow, or Kronverk or Spider's Nest in St. Pete.). Different structure is responsible for some commercialization of our FIDO, unlike you have in your country. Corporations wants their computers to work and bring profit, that's why most of our FIDO boards have to carry SU.business, or SPB.business, or ???.business echoes. Those echoes aren't free, they were created to promote some goods, to promote some services and they have to cover corporate expenses for the BBS handling.

Even being poor, as we are, some of us do manage to get their bosses to buy them expensive high speed modems, like US Robotics HST DS, or ZyXel. They become our backbone nodes automatically. New feature of ZyXel to handle speech becomes very hot topic here. We are trying to invent different ways to utilize it. How about US? Do you people use these fancy features?

Phone lines quality keeps going down, while prices tend to rise. Only a few of us could enjoy using electronic telephone stations - most of others are connected to the very old ones, with stepping relays. It is most frequent cause of the carier drop when one is connected to the other's modem and third pary calls. What we'd do without EMODEM?

### INTERNET

Internet/Relcom grows even more rapidly then FIDO. These guys know what they are doing, and despite some minor problems, we all are very grateful to them for opening us a window to the rest of the world.

Prices, as in all of our country are rising, but not as far as consumer good's ones, thank God! I can provide your readers with current prices on request.

Services are also growing. There are already a number of independent mail servers, ready to provide some additional regional info. GPNTB - the biggest technical library in the Russia, now offeres its services as a source of the article titles for about a hundred of different technical Western magazines. Some servers offer access to their specialized data bases - on Law. Taxes, etc.

New network started-Relam, based on Relcom as a carrier. This network supposed to be for the scientists and scientific institutions. Unfortunately, all I know is that it has to be much cheaper then Relcom, but it's commercial use is totaly restricted.

GlasNet got a new popularity after adding USENET newfeed and, especially, becoming available through x.25 link from St.Pete. Company named TransInform is providing this link at very low cost for GlasNet users. As attractive as it is, it still well far from working properly. TransInform guysstill have no rotary number, are ofen busy and hand when connected.

Sprint is still hiding from an ordinary

public behind the high fence of the central telegraph building. How do they work, how do they attract customers is an enigma for me. I've been several times to their office, talked with them, used their services, about the very existence of some of them they didn't know! But, alas, there is only Sprint, or VNIIPAS in Moscow, or direct dial-for all of the ones, who'd like to use Compuserve or MCI Mail services from St.Pete. Being almost monopoly, they can afford to be that dumb sgp.

### COMMERCIAL NETWORKS

Commercial networks are quietly mushrooming over here! Young guys, with just a couple of month's experience of running FIDO board, are hired with great salaries to run closed commercial networks. This is because most of the money are being done now in commerce. To be able to have price list from St.Pete, Novosibirsk and Vladivostok at the same time becomes essential, and these guys keep installing pirated Max and FD on their 286 clones to enable them to get this info. . FAX is almost useless on a distance more then several hundreds of kms in Russia, alas>.

Some of these networks started gating each other, some even dare to gate Relcom, which, compared to their tiny leak is an avalanche of info, with it's great relcom.commerce.\*\*\*groups, responsible for almost 90 % of the traffic.

More and more business proposals find their way to our Relcom groups. Guys offer to run newsletter, another one offers cheap eigarettes, third one talks about software being developed in Russia for his company. This is great, this shows that we become known to world Internet community and give us some hopes for the future.

Well, Jack, this is about all for today. Hope to hear your critics and your questions if any. My apologies again for the delay and great thanks for your great magazine! In April of 1991 I had my small letter printed in PCWorld. Do you know how many answers it got me? 111 And your one brought me well over twice that amount!

Till the next report. Arcady Khotin agh@nwpc.spb.su

# THIS MONTH'S LIST

This month we present a list of 358 technical support/product support bulletin boards courtesy of Gary Barr, of Evansville, Indiana. Mr. Barr updates this list each month as the SUPRT BBS List and makes it available in the file SUPRTnnn.ZIP where nnn equals the last digit of the year and a two digit month (March, 1993 is SUPRT303.ZIP). Barr operates a Remote Access BBS titled Digicom 1:2310/200 at (812)479-1310 and also compiles the Remote Access BBS List



# DUCT/ TECHNICAL SUPPORT BULLETIN BOARD SYSTEMS

BBS	PHONE	SUBJECT	BBS	PHONE	SUBJECT
3Com	408-980-8204	.NETWORK CARDS	Clark Development Corp	801-261-8976	.PCBOARD BBS SOFTWARE
3rd Planet Software, Inc	213-841-2260	.NETWORK ASST PLUS	Clear Software	617-965-5406	.CLEAR, ALL CLEAR
Abacus Concepts	616-698-8106	.STATVIEW, SUPERNOVA MAC	CNET	408-954-1787	NETWORKING
Abaton Technology	415-438-4650	LASER PRINTER, SCANNER	Coconut Computing Inc	619-456-0815	COCONET BBS SOFTWARE
Accolade			Codenoll		
		.COMPUTERS & MONITORS	Colorado Memory Systems .		
Adaptec	408-945-7727	.CONTROLLERS	Columbia Data Products	407-862-4724	SCSI DRV'S FOR WD-7000
Addstor			Communications Research .	504-926-5625	.TERMINAL EMULATORS
		.SCSI CTRL.TAPE BACKUPS			MODEMS, FAX, SCANNERS
		.ALR COMPUTER SYSTEMS			ONLINE SHOPPING SFTW
All Computer			Computer Peripherals		
Alloy Computer Products .					ARTS & LETTERS SOFTWAR
Allied Telesis					INTELLIGENT SERIAL CARD
Alpha Software					INTELLIGENT SERIAL CARD
Altima			Conner International		
Altsys			Continental Software		
Amdek Corporation			Core International		
		AMI BIOS, MOTHERBOARDS	Corel System		
		GAMES, KEEN, SECRET AGENT			SINGLE/DUAL PG MONITOR
		.FAX/MODEM,FASTMATH	Corvus System, Inc		
		LANTASTIC NETWORKING			SOUNDBLASTER MUSIC CAR
Artist Graphics			Cross Communications		
Ask Sam Systems			Cumulus		
		MULTIMEDIA SOFTWARE	DAC Software		
AST Research			DAK Online Resource Center		
		VIDEO CARDS/MODEMS	Dariana Technology Group		
AT&T Computer Systems .			Darwin Systems		
		WINDOWS WORKSTATION	Data Access		
Award					KEYBOARDS/TRACKBALLS
		BEAGLE WORKS,TIMEOUT	DataEase Int'l		
Blackmond Software					DATAPRODUCTS PRINTERS
		MEMORY CARDS, MODEMS	Datastorm		
Borland			Data Technology		
Bourbaki					NETWORKING HARDWARE
		LAN SERVER/NET REMOTE			LOCALTALK,E-NET FOR MAC
		NETWORKING UTILITIES	DCA		
Brown Bag Software					DELL MAIL ORDER CLONES
Buerg Software			Delphi		
		PCFILE,PCCALC,PCWRITE	Diamond Computer		
Calcomp					INTELLIGENT SERIAL CARD
Calera Recognition Systems			Digital Communications		
Campbell Services			Digital Research		
		LASER/DOT MATRIX PRNTRS	Digital Vision		
		CARDINAL MODEMS/FAXS	Disk Technician Corporation		
		FRACTERMCOMMSOFTWARE			PCGLOSSARY & TELEMAGIC
CBIS, Inc			Distibuted Processing Tech		
c:Mail			D-Link Systems, Inc		
entral Point			DNA Networks, Inc		
ertus			Dove Computer		
		NETWARE TAPE BACKUPS	DTK		
hipsoft			Dudley Software		
hwatal Development Co			Dynamic Microprocessor		
itizens America Corp					SHOPPERS ASST, CALLAWAY
		NETWORKING SOFTWARE	Elite Business App's		
larion Software	305-785-9172	REPORT WRITER	Emac/Everex	510-226-9694 .	TRACKBALL MODEM

		550		CODUCT
Emerald Systems619-673-4617	DATA MANAGEMENT	LaserGo	619-450-9370	.GOSCRIPT
Enable Software518-877-6316		Lattice	708-916-1200	LATTICE SOFTWARE
Epson America, Inc408-946-8777		Leading Edge		
Equinox Systems, Inc305-378-1696		Lexmark		
eSoft Inc303-699-8222		Liant Software		
ETS Incorporated801-265-0919		Logical Connection		
Exis416-439-8293		Logitech		
EZX Publishing713-280-8180		Lotus		
Family Scrapbook904-249-9515				LOTUS WORD PROCESSING
Fifth Generation Systems 504-295-3344		Mace, Paul Software		
Folio801-375-9907				.NETWORKING HARDWARE
Foresight Resources 816-891-8465		Magee Enterprises, Inc		
Frederick Engineering, Inc 301-290-6944		Magitronic Technology		
Fresh Technology602-497-4235				.COMPUTERS/MONITORS
Fujitsu America, Inc408-944-9899		Main Lan		
Future Domain714-253-0432		Mannesman Tally		
FutureSoft Engineering 713-588-6870		Manx Software Systems		
Galacticomm		Marstek, Inc		
GAP Development Company . 714-493-3819		Matrix Technology	617-569-3787	SOFTWARE
Gateway BBS605-232-2109				. MAXI HOST BBS SOFTWAR
Gateway Communications714-863-7097		Maxtor/Miniscribe		
Gazelle Systems801-375-2548	.BACKII,OPTUNE,Q-DOS	Maynard Electronics	407-263-3502	.TAPE BACKUPS
GEcho316-263-5313		McAfee Assoc		
GEnie Information Services 800-638-8369				.MULTIMEDIA PRODUCTS
Genoa Systems408-943-1231	. TAPE BACKUPS	Micro Display Systems		
Gensoft Development 206-562-9407				. CARBON COPY, WORKMAN
Gibson Research714-362-8848		Microdyne		
GigaTrend, Inc619-566-0361		Micron Technology		
Global Village Comm415-390-8397				.COMPUTER,MOTHERBOAR
GoldstarTechnologies 408-432-0236		Micropolis Corp		
Great American Software 603-889-7292		Microrim		
Gupta Technologies, Inc 415-321-0549		MicroProse		
GVC Technologies		Microsoft		
Hayes Microcomputer 800-874-2937		Microsystems Sortware		. CALANDER SCHEDULER
Hayes Microcomputer	MINDOWS ENVIOLEDMARE	Microtest		
Headland Technology415-656-0503	COMPLITEDS	Mitsubishi		
Hercules Computer	MEMORY EVE VIDEO CARDO	Mountain Network Solutions		
IBM		Mouse Systems (MSC)		
Intelligent Graphics Corp 408-441-0386		Multi-Tech Systems		
IMC Networks				.WILDCAT,QMODEM,OLX
IMSI Software		National Semiconductor		
Infinity Computer Services 215-965-8028		NEC Technologies		
Infochip Systems408-727-2496		NetWorth	214-869-2050	ETHERNET CARDS
Informix913-492-2089				.VIDEO CAPTURE BOARDS
InfoShare703-803-8000				NIGHT OWL CDROM DISK
Innovative Data Concepts 215-357-4183		NISCA		
Inset Corporation203-740-0063		Norton-Lambert		
Insignia Solutions415-694-7694		Novell		
Intel503-645-6275		Novell Desktop Systems		
Intracorp305-378-8793		Number Nine		
lomega801-778-4400	. TAPE BACKUPS	OCR Systems		
Irwin Magnetics 313-930-9380		Okidata		
Jetfax415-324-1259				. DSZ - ZMODEM PROTOCOL
Jetform 613-563-2894		Ontrack Computer Systems	612-937-0860	.HD PREP SOFTWARE
JDR Microdevices 408-559-0253		Open Network	718-638-2239	.NETWORKING
Kent Marsh713-522-8921		Orchid Technology	510-683-0327	. VIDEO CARDS
Kodiak Technology408-452-0677	NETWORK HARDWARE	Origin	512-328-8402	.GAMING SOFTWARE
Kurta Corp602-243-9440		Pacific Data Products	619-452-6329	.LASER PRINTER PRODUCT
LAN Master817-771-0233		Packard Bell	818-773-7207	.COMPUTER SYSTEMS
LAN Systems801-373-6980		Palindrome	708-505-3336	.NETWORK SOFTWARE
LAN Works416-238-0253	3.PROMS	Panasonic	201-863-7847	.PRINTERS,SCANNERS,CPL

BBS	PHONE	SUBJECT	BBS	PHONE	SUBJECT
Paperback Corporation	415-644-0782	.SOFTWARE	Sunriver	512-835-8082	UNIXSYSTEMS
Paradise Systems			Supermac Software	408-773-4500	. SPECTRUM BOARD, MONITOR
Patton & Patton Software			Supra Corp		
		. SCANNERS, LASER PRINTER	Sydex		
Phoenix Technologies					.NORTON,PCANYWHERE
Pinnacle Publishing			Sysgen	408-946-5032	. DRIVE CONTROLLERS
Pinpoint Publishing					.SOFTWARE BRIDGE, TOOLKIT
PKWare					. REMOVABLE MASS STORAGE
PLI	510-651-5948	. REMOVABLE MEDIA	Swan Technologies	814-237-6145	.SWAN COMPUTERS
Plus Development	408-434-1664	. HARD DRIVES	TEAMate		
Practical Peripherals			Tecmar		
Priam Systems	408-434-1646	. HARD DRIVES	Telebit	408-745-3803	.MODEMS
Princeton Graphic Systems .	404-664-1210	.MONITORS			.TELIX COMM SOFTWARE
Prometheus Products	503-691-5199	.FAX/MODEMS	Template Garden Software .	914-337-2008	.THE DOCUMENTOR
Proteon	508-366-7827	. NETWORKING BOARDS	Texas Instruments	512-250-6112	.PRINTERS,CPUS
		.SHAREWARE SOFTWARE	TheSoft Programming	415-581-3019	.THEDRAW ANSI SOFTWARE
Pure Data	214-242-3225	. NETWORKING BOARDS	Thomas Conrad	512-836-8012	. NETWORKING CARDS
Qmail	901-382-5583	. QMAIL OFFLINE READER	Thumper Technologies		
QMS	205-633-3632	.PRINTERS	Tiara Computer Systems	415-966-8533	. NETWORKING CARDS
Quadram	404-564-5678	. MEMORY SOFTWARE	Timeline Software		
Qualitas	301-907-8030	.386MAX & BLUEMAX	Timeslips		
Quantum	408-894-3214	. HARD DISK STORAGE	Tops microsystems		
Quarterdeck Office Systems	310-341-3227	. QEMM386	TopSoftSoftware	502-425-9941	.BBS DOORS,TOPED
		. QUICKBBS BBS SOFTWARE	Toshiba Printer Products	714-581-7600	PRINTERS
Racal Interlan/Rabbit Soft	508-264-4345	. NETWORKING CARDS	Trantor Systems	415-656-5159	. PARALLEL PORT SCSI
Race	305-271-2146	. RACE USER EDITOR (RA)	Traveling Software	206-485-1736	LAPLINK, BATTERY WATCH
Rams' Island Software	303-841-6269	INCONTEXT	Trident Microsystems		
RelayNet National	301-229-5623	. RELAYNET MAIL SYSTEM	Trius	508-794-0762 .	ASEASYAS SPREADSHEET
Remote Control Int	619-431-4030	TELEMAGIC	True Vision	317-577-8783 .	DISPLAY ACCELERATOR
Revelation Technologies					PALCOM-PARADOX COMPILER
Rix Softworks	714-476-0728	. PAINT SOFTWARE	Turbo Tax		
Rybs Electronics			Turtle Beach		
Saber Software			Unicorn Software		
		PCBOARD BBS SOFTWARE	US Robotics		
Samsung Info Systems			US Sage		
SEAboard			Ven Tel		
		. HARD DRIVES, CONTROLLER	Ventura Software		
		SEARCHLIGHT BBS SFTW	Vermont Microsystems		
SemWare			Video Seven		
Sharp			Visual Business Systems		
Shiva Corporation	617-621-0190 .	FASTPATH 4, BRIDGES			VOLKWRITER SOFTWARE
Sitka Corporation	415-769-8774 .	TOPS NETWORK OS	Vortex Systems		
Sierra Online	209-683-4463 .	GRAPHIC ADVENTURE	Wacom		
		VIDEO BOARD, MONITORS	Walker, Richer, & Quinn		
Silicon Valley Computers			Wallsoft Systems		
Sitka			Walt Disney Software		
		HARD DISK CONTROLLERS	Wangtek		
Sofnet			Weitek		
Softkione					CONTROLLERS, HARD DRIVE
Softronics		DISK OPTIMIZR, DOUBLE DOS	White Water Systems Windows Tech Support		
Software Products Intl					WORDPERFCT, DRAWPERFCT
		SOFTWARE COPY PROTECT.	Wordtech		
		MICROPHONE SOFTWARE	Wyse		
Solutions Systems			Xebec		
SparkWare			Xircom		
		POWERBASIC SOFTWARE	Xyquest		
		NETWORKING, PC PURSUIT	XTree		
Stac Electronics			Zenographics		
STB Systems			Zoom Telephonics		
Storage Dimensions	.408-944-1220 .	STORAGE DEVICES	Zsoft		
		SUNRISE DOOR SOFTWARE	ZyXEL		

# **BOARDWATCH**LIST OF BBS LIST KEEPERS

This listing comprises a list of those who compile and maintain lists of bulletin boards, either by topical category, or by some geographic area or definition - often by area code. The primary bulletin board system where the list can be downloaded electronically is also included.

BBS LIST TOPIC	LIST AUTHOR/EDITOR	CONTACT BBS	TELEPHONE
96 List - 9600+bps BBS	Ken Sukimoto	Downtown BBS	(213)484-0260
AC 516 Free Shareware BBS	Harold Stein	Long Island Exchange	(516)385-7882
Airline Pilot/JUMPSEAT BBSs	Rex Chadwell	ChicAAgo Hangar	(708)980-1613
Alaska AC 907	Patti Johnson	Alaska Pirate Soc.	(907)562-1854
Apple II BBS with Internet con	Morgan Davis	pro-sol	(619)670-5379
Area Code 517 - Mid-Michigan	Rick Rosinski/SAMM	Wolverine BBS	(517)695-9952
Arkansas Area 501	Bob Underdown	The Gaslight BBS	(501)444-8420
ASP BBS Member List	Bob Ostrander	PBS-BBS	(317)856-2087
Astronomy/Space BBS	John Pickens	Starbase III BBS	(209)432-2487
Atlanta Area 404	Online Atlanta Society	OASIS	(404)627-2662
Atlanta Area 404	Rodney Aloia	INDEX System	(404)924-8472
Austin Area BBS List AC 512	Gordon L. Harlan	-=ACE*BBS=-	(512)258-9553
Autocad Related BBS	Jason Osgood	SAUG BBS	(206)644-7115
Baltimore Area 410	Brad Blase	Network BBS	(410)247-3797
BBS With Handicapped Focus	Bill McGarry	Handicap News BBS	(203)337-1607
Black Run/Oriented BBS	Arthur "Rambo" McGee	BDPA BAC BBS	(707)552-3314
Business/Professional BBS	Dennis Hauser	Delight The Customer	(517)797-3740
California AC 310	Jim Walton	Illusions BBS	(310)804-3324
Central California AC 209	Jack Porter/Madera UG	Zen Den Systems	(209)675-8436
Central California Area 805	Larry Honore	His Board	(805)652-1478
Chicago	David Nathan	HURK BBS	(708)801-082
Chicago	Paul Chartraw	Stillwaters	(708)403-282
Cleveland Area 216	Eric Rickin	Wine Cellar	(216)382-255
Commodore 64/128/Amiga BBS	John Rigali	Night Gallery	(818)448-852
CompuCom Modem BBS List	Thomas Weathers	Referral Market BBS	(803)297-439
Connecticut AC 203	Kevin Brook	Creative Edge BBS	(203)743-404
Conservation/Nature BBS List	D.Wendling/JS Christianso	Coin of the Realm	(301)585-669
Dallas/Ft Worth Area 214/817	Mark Robbins	Second Sanctum	(817)784-117
Darwin National USBBS List	Bob Breedlove	Bob's BBS	(916)929-751
Desktop Publishing BBS	Frank Atlee	Infinite Perspective	(301)924-039
Detroit Area 313	Horst Mann	Tony's Corner	(313)754-113
Ecology/Conservation BBS	Bob Chapman	EarthArt BBS	(803)552-438
Engineering Related BBS	Arthur Petrzelka	Computer Plumber	(319)337-672
Geneology Related BBS	Richard A. Pence	NGS-CIG	(703)528-261
Graphical User Interface BBS	David Shapiro	The Gooey (GUI) BBS	(212)876-588
Ham/Amateur Radio BBS	Stan Staten	3WINKs BBS	(301)590-9629
Handicapped Issues BBS	Richard Barth	HEX BBS	(301)593-7357

BBS LIST TOPIC	LIST AUTHOR/EDITOR	CONTACT BBS	TELEPHONE
Houston Area 713	David E. Wachenschwanz	Atomic Cafe BBS	(713)530-8875
Kansas City Area 816/913	Roy Timberman	Sound Advice	(816)436-4516
Kitsap County Washington	Michael Schuyler	Quicksilver BBS	(206)780-2011
List of Gay/Lesbian BBS	Eric Blair	S-TEK BBS	(514)597-2409
Macintosh BBS	Bill Taylor	Fort Mill Tabby	(803)548-0900
Medical Issues BBS	Edward Del Grosso	Black Bag	(302)731-1998
Milwaukee Area 414	Jay Jadofsky	Priplanus	(414)442-0170
Minnesota Twin Cities AC 612	Barry Watson	Abiogenetic BBS	(612)489-7983
National 800 Number BBS List	Michael Long	Hayes Online	(800)874-2937
National Adult BBS List	Clayton Manson	Titan BBS 1:3612/140	(904)476-1270
National BBS List	DP McIntire/Beth Spotts	Ameriboard	(412)349-6862
New Jersey AC 609	Dave Schubert	The Casino PCBoard	(609)561-3377
New Jersey Area 201/609/908	Wayne R. Morton	Praedo BBS	(609)953-0769
New Orleans BBS List	Jeff Jones	Southern Star BBS	(504)885-5928
Ontario Area 705	Alex Draper	Cottage Country BBS	(705)835-6192
Open Access UNIX Site List	Phil Eschallier	LGNP1 (login:BBS)	(215)348-9727
Orlando Florida AC 407	Matt Drury	London BBS	(407)895-1335
OS/2 BBS Systems	Pete Norloff	OS2/Shareware BBS	(703)385-4325
OS/2 Related BBS	Dave Fisher	LiveNet 1:170/110	(918)481-5715
Pennsylvania AC 215/609/302	Ron Brandt	DSC/VOICENET	(215)443-9434
Pinellas/Tampa Florida AC 813	Emery Mandel	Mercury Opus	(813)321-0734
Pittsburgh AC 412	Chas Stokes	Quad-Tech Systems	(412)262-4794
Portland Oregon BBS	Lisa Gronke	DawGone Disgusted	(503)297-9145
Raleigh NC Area Code 919	Mike Stroud	Micro Message Svc.	(919)779-6674
Republic of South Africa	Henk WOlsink	Catalyst BBS	(041)34-1122
Rhode Island Area 401	Mike Labbe	Eagle's Nest	(401)732-5292
Rochester NY AC 716	Tracy Logan	Logan's Run	(716)256-2659
San Diego AC 619	Joe Nicholson	General Alarm	(619)669-0385
San Diego, CA AC 619	Ron Dipold	ComputorEdge	(619)573-1675
San Francisco Area 408/415/510	Julie McGrew	Bay List BBS	(510)339-1045
Seattle AC 206/West Washington	Bob Dinse/Nanook	Eskimo North	(206)367-3837
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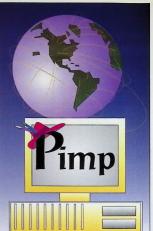
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## **National Listings**

Local Area Lists

# List of BBS List Keepers

Short on theory and long on facts, access numbers, and contact information, Boardwatch delivers stories on the global Internet, commercial online services, and bulletin boards - you can dial immediately with your modem. Each issue brings you 500 to 1000 access numbers under topical lists, geographic lists, and our own select national list of bulletin boards. More, we list the people who keep lists in various cities, and under various topics, all over the world, so that you can dial and download the latest lists of bulletin boards from their source. Nobody digs out more numbers and more bulletin boards than Boardwatch Magazine.

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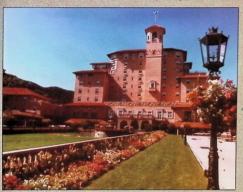
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# BOARDWATCH WAGAZINE

Is Pleased to Announce...

# **≝ONE BBSCON '93**

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Don't miss the largest gathering of BBS operators and industry leaders ever assembled. Come meet the pioneers that started the online movement, and the leaders of today's online industry in an intense three-day educational conference covering every aspect of the online world. ONE BBSCON '93 promises to ETHE online event of the year- in the shadow of the beautiful Rocky Mountain front range at its most beautiful time of year. Nowhere else will you ever have the opportunity to see as many BBS products in action, talk to the vendors, compare BBS software side-by-side, find the latest in utility programs, modern technology, and see up close virtually every aspect of communicating online with personal computers. Nowhere else will you find such a presentation of technical information you can use to run your own online information service. And nowhere will you find as many BBS operators from around the world gathered under one roof to share experiences, trade war stories, and rus elbows with the stars of the industry.

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# REGISTRATION

\$175 until May 1st, 1993

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ONE BBSCON '93 is limited to 2,000 attendees so register early and often.

On-site registration opens Wednesday afternoon, August 25th, 1993.

afternoon, August 25th, 1993.
Closing session Sunday morning, August 29th, 1993.

Vendor exhibit area open Friday, August 27th, and Saturday, August 28th.

# For Convention Registration and

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